Bobby Seale on Black Panther Party Founding (See page 3)

COMMEMORATOR

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40th Anniversary Commemoration of the Black Panther Party

A time to reaffirm a cadre commitment to the Ten-Point Program

By Melvin Dickson

With workshops, presentations, book-signings, and other events throughout the month of October, former Black Panther Party members, families and friends from all parts of the country and the world will celebrate and commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Black Panther Party (BPP), centered in Oakland, California. People will visit Black Panther historical sites in West Oakland, North Oakland, East Oakland as well as South Berkeley and Richmond, where the various BPP headquarters, branches and facilities began. Former members will take pictures together at the Alameda County court building where, 38 years ago, the Free Huey Movement set the political passions of the black community and the country on fire.

Most importantly, we will speak to lessons learned from the past, address present conditions of the struggle, and call for a renewal — a cohesive, organized drive for a future in which we build the 10-Point Program and bring revolutionary intercommunalism to life in our own land and hemisphere as a primary aim.

Some of us in the BPP were "cadre." Many of the younger generation may not know what that term represents — those of us who do must teach its meaning, and the necessity for cadre-based, professional practice to successfully overcome, through organization, the problems encircling our class and the struggle today.

On this 40th Anniversary of its founding by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale, we are commemorating the heroism and victories of the Black Panther Party. As we honor the heroes and soldiers of the movement, both living and dead; as we pay tribute to the nobility of principle and dignity of purpose embodied by the legacy of the Black Panther Party, we must simultaneously commit ourselves to consummating these goals of the Black Panther Party, without repeating the

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Illustration by Emory Douglas

Artwork by BPP former Minister of Culture honors rank and file BPP members on the occasion of the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the BPP, at Oakland's Malonga Casquelord Center for The Arts, October 13-15, 2006.

Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign Expands

By Commemorator Staff

At the invitation of the pastor and members of South Berkeley's McGee Avenue Baptist Church, the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign will expand its literacy sessions to this new site. To begin expansion of the campaign into this community, volunteer organizers from Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party (CCBPP) were invited to participate in a neighborhood block party held on September 23 in order to enroll new students and tutors alike. CCBPP sponsored Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy sessions will begin at this church site on October 24. More volunteer tutors and organizers are needed to continue this drive to deliver CCBPP's literacy campaign throughout our community, setting an example for the nation at a time when many of our children graduate public schools but are still functionally illiterate.

A dozen tutors and students from the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Program's South Berkeley Community Church teaching site came to the September block party to help enroll additional students and volunteer tutors. CCBPP Operations Manager Melvin Dickson introduced them to Pastor Michael Smith of the McGee Avenue Baptist Church and to block party coordinator Elizabeth Coleman. "Our public schools today are defunded and deprioritized — it is part of 'dummying down' the poor and minority youth," said Dickson. "Contrast this with statistics from socialist Cuba, or Venezuela today under their Bolivarian Revolution, and we get a glimpse of what *could* be, if we take the power to determine policy for our class."

CCBPP volunteer organizers Shanrika Turner and Joyce Hutton (niece of Li'l Bobby) ran the sign-up table at the event, while CCBPP Volunteers Coordinator Charles Dubois headed up circulating at the block party to find those interested in participating in the literacy program and other CCBPP activities. Most attendees came by CCBPP's table to

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Photo by CCBPP staff

Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign organizers enrolled new students at a block party hosted by McGee Ave. Baptist Church.

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EDITORIAL

Bi-Partisan War on the Poor

The Democratic and Republican war on the poor, and their systematic assault on working class families with children, continues throughout the country. Mass closings of public schools, libraries, clinics, hospitals, industries and firing of working people by downsizing and outsourcing have led to a spiraling decline in available living wage jobs and a lack of affordable, safe and sanitary housing. The U.S. has the largest per capita prison population in the world, not coincidentally comprised of mostly poor people and people of color, with "Three Strikes and You're Out" policies sending more youth and younger people into a life of indentured servitude behind prison walls for both public and private corporate profits.

As international monopoly capitalist profiteers preach their empty "family values," entire households are driven into homelessness due to "urban renewal" schemes turned into urban *removal*. Homeless, often working people, become a permanent feature on our streets, in the doorways of apartment buildings and businesses, and under highways and bridges in this, the "land of the free."

The gap between the rich and the poor continues to widen. The wealth in the hands and bank accounts of the monopoly capitalist class continues to grow in obscene disproportions. In 2003, it was recorded by the government's own study that the top 1% of households owned 57.5% of the corporate wealth — up by 5.4% from the year before. The top group's share of the corporate wealth has grown by half since 1991, when it was 38.7%.

Literacy is at an all-time low. According to a CBS release in December 2004, some 3,000 children nationwide drop out of high school every day. Of those who do graduate from high school, 64% can't read.

Police
The PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX:
The NEW PLANTATION SYSTEM
"Not since slavery has an entire American indus
derived it's profits exclusively from
human beings of their freedom."

Photo by Hans Bennett

Demonstration in 2004 in Philadelphia on behalf of Mumia Abu-Jamal who is on death-row fighting for his life.

Proposition 13 and California Public Education

How this has played out in California can be seen through the example of Proposition 13, written in 1978 by major real estate attorneys. Prop 13 put a cap on property taxes and shifted public funds from local governments to the state. By cutting revenues, Prop 13 crippled California's public education, as well as other social services. School funding was cut by half overnight.

According to California Assembly member, Jackie Goldberg, after the passage of Prop 13, "Commercial property owners reaped 40% of the savings, while over a third of the benefits from the property tax reduction went back into the state and federal governments in the form of higher income taxes."

With school budgets calculated according to the local community tax base, schools in poorer areas, then and now, face irrational school budget cuts. These cuts are carried out in spite of the fact that, nationally, illiteracy is at an all time high. In inner cities, more than half of black males do not finish high school. In Oakland, 85,000 adults are functionally illiterate within a population that totals 400,000. That's almost one quarter of the population.

But when the State of California took control of the Oakland Public Schools three years ago as a result of allegations of mismanagement, the state started by firing hundreds of teachers and ultimately closed dozens of schools and libraries!

Current government fiscal policy, judicial codes and budgeting mechanisms result in the inner cities schools acting as holding pens for a population group that the status quo fears more each day — knowing that the job market will not provide for their numbers alone, our youth are discarded in a Draconian triage of the low income and under-educated. The anger amid our youth is palpable — senseless violence and barbarism is bred by a system that demands the lowest value be attributed to our labor in order to maximize their profits and repressive controls.

The force of the police, judicial and penal systems, instead of educational and job development programs, greet the students of today, shattering what should be an atmosphere promoting the ability to study and learn. Metal detectors, armed guards, body searches and other humiliating security measures have become the norm on school grounds throughout the land. Each incident of insane brutality unleashed in a school is played by Establishment media as top headline material; striking fear in the hearts of parents and taxpayers alike, encouraging them to acquiesce to even more restraints.

Trickle Down and Reaganomics

"Trickle Down" was Ronald Reagan's scam of the 1980's. As the rich got richer from tax cuts, social programs for the working class and poor were axed on the altar of "fiscal responsibility" and "efficiency." Money accumulated by the wealthy was supposed to somehow "trickle down" to the poor, and presto-change-o, with the "magic of the capitalist market," jobs would be created and social programs funded and organized by the private sector.

The grim reality for working class people has been that the public libraries, schools, clinics, hospitals, etc., are neglected, lose funding and then are closed down; social programs become targets for attack while large corporations are given free reign to privatize public resources for corporate profits. Wages have decreased and jobs have disappeared — job security is now a thing of the past.

Let's Deal with the Solution

The principles and goals of the Black Panther Party are still relevant today, and one of the main concerns of the BPP platform was the problem of quality education and relevant education needed to change exploitive conditions confronted by our class. As a community supported, all volunteer activity, the CCBPP Literacy Campaign is not designed to do the job of federal, state and local government bodies who have taxing powers and are mandated by law to provide educational services to the population.

We do, however, seek to build campaigns that make it possible for our people to organize together and to gain power over the means to determine our rights to living wages, our rights to housing, food, education, health services and other absolute necessities, as the place to begin in turning this situation around. We must start that example here; build that example across the nation; demand that the imperialist pursuits of the American empire be brought to a halt and those billions in monies and hundreds of thousands of hours of labor value be turned to serving the people of this country and working people throughout our hemisphere and beyond. If you are interested in learning how to organize for solutions for our class, please call: 510-652-7170.

All Power to the People!

Opinions and positions taken in articles with bylines are those of their writers. The views expressed in the bylined editorials and opinion pieces published by The Commemorator *do not necessarily indicate its endorsement or support — Editor*

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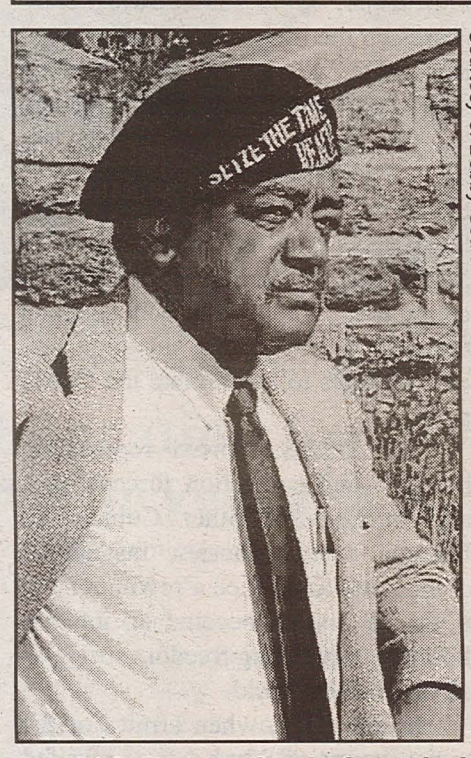
On the Founding of the Black Panther Party



Courtesy of Bobby Seale

Photo by CCBPP staff

October 1996 was the last BPP reunion, held in Oakland, CA where former members came together to commemorate the organization's principles and goals.

In 1966, Bobby Seale founded the BPP along with Huey P. Newton.

By Bobby Seale

The decade of the 1960s, with its nationwide protest movement, was a period that captured my own and Huey P. Newton's imaginations, and challenged us to organize and unite the black community. I had been influenced by Frantz Fanon's book *The Wretched of the Earth,* by Martin Luther King, Jr. when he spoke at the Oakland Auditorium in 1962, by the anti-apartheid campaign here and in South Africa and Nelson Mandela being sentenced to life in prison and, finally, by Malcolm X's advocacy, particularly after he left the Nation of Islam.

Huey and I marched in one demonstration — a ten-thousand-strong antiwar march — where the police allowed the Hell's Angels to plow their motorcycles into the front line of the demonstrators. Throughout the American South, peaceful demonstrators were viciously attacked and murdered, and people were viciously brutalized and murdered simply because they wanted to register to vote. I came to understand that America's power structure and its racism were fundamentally about bullying and terrorizing those of us who had the audacity to stand up and oppose institutionalized racism. After Malcolm X's assassination I insisted to Huey that we needed to start a new organization.

A year or so later, Huey and I drafted our founding document, the Ten-Point Platform and Program ("What We Want, What We Believe"), over several nights in a War on Poverty office in Oakland, California, where I was employed by the Department of Human Resources. It took more than a week to finalize the platform, and it was completed on October 22, 1966, the day we came up with a name for our new organization. The original name was the Black Panther Party for Self Defense.

Most of our ideas were similar to those of other civil rights organizations at the time — full employment, decent housing, education that taught African-Americans their true history, an end to the exploitation of our black community, preventative health care, fair trials in the courts, and the enforcement of our constitutional rights. These are all basic everyday civil/human rights issues. We even referred to the need for reparations for slavery so that we could rebuild our communities. But what really distinguished our Black Panther Party was an emphasis on our right to defend ourselves from any vicious, racist attack.

For years before 1966, I had kept up on what political organizations were out there. I had recently received some material from a group called the Lowndes County Freedom Organization that used a black panther as their logo. I asked Huey why he thought they used this logo. He said, "Well, maybe it's in opposition to the fighting cock that some white racist organization down South has." I said, "Well, a panther would kick a racist cock's ass." Then Huey said, "You know, the nature of a panther is that if you push it into a corner, sooner or later it's going to come out of that corner to try to wipe out who's oppressing it in that corner." I said, "Well, that's just like black folks, Huey. Racism keeps us all pushed into a corner." Huey responded, "Well, what about the Black Panther Party?" I said, "Okay, the Black Panther Party. But wait a minute, Huey. You and I said we've got to deal with self-defense. What about our self-defense factor?" He said, "What about the

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Panthers Speak on 40th Anniversary of BPP Founding

Editor's note: For the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of the Black Panther Party, The Commemorator *asked some former BPP members to give their views on the significance of the BPP struggle. We asked them: What does the 40th Anniversary mean to you and how is the Ten-Point Platform relevant today? Bobby Coleman, Ruth Villa (Jones), William Jennings (Billy X), Saundra Williams, Sheba Haven, and Henry "Mitch" Mitchell contributed their reflections.*

Bobby Coleman *was born in Oakland, and was recruited into the Party by Li'l Bobby Hutton in early 1967, before the Sacramento tactic where a delegation of BPP members led by Bobby Seale, presented BPP Mandate #1, in protest of increased police repression, to the State Legislature. Mr. Coleman is a volunteer and member of the Board of Directors of Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party, recruiting new sponsorships and volunteers for* The Commemorator *newspaper and the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign.*

"First of all, it means surviving these 40 years. At that time I was just 20. I didn't think I would live to get to 60!

"The BPP 40th Anniversary means that we are still around and need to be acting on the Ten-Point Program because positive programs are needed more now than ever. Why? Because the younger generation doesn't know what is happening in the world today. You ask a kid today what Malcolm X, or the Vietnam War, mean — or what the BPP was about — they would not have a clue. This anniversary? Well, after 40 years, many of the people coming have not seen one another for 10, 20 or 30 years. So it is a good thing because there will be other people coming who have never heard about the real meaning of the BPP, and they need to hear it.

"Maybe we can get together and see how we can make some changes for our young brothers and sisters. This reunion should not be just about us having a reunion just to look at one another, but about figuring out how to put some of those survival programs back in, how to change the messed-up system that we face today. Right now, I am still trying to be active with CCBPP by helping to get the paper out, and help find sponsors and volunteers. But I can only do so much. We need some younger brothers and sisters to take on organizer training programs with CCBPP."

Photo by CCBPP STAFF

Bobby Coleman, joined the party in 1967, in Oakland, CA

Ruth Villa (Jones) *has an extensive activist background, going back to the Civil Rights Movement in the early 60s,when she marched in the company of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She also has a history organizing with the BPP. She co-founded the Senior Citizens for a Safe Environment (SAFE) program, a Panther survival program, back in*

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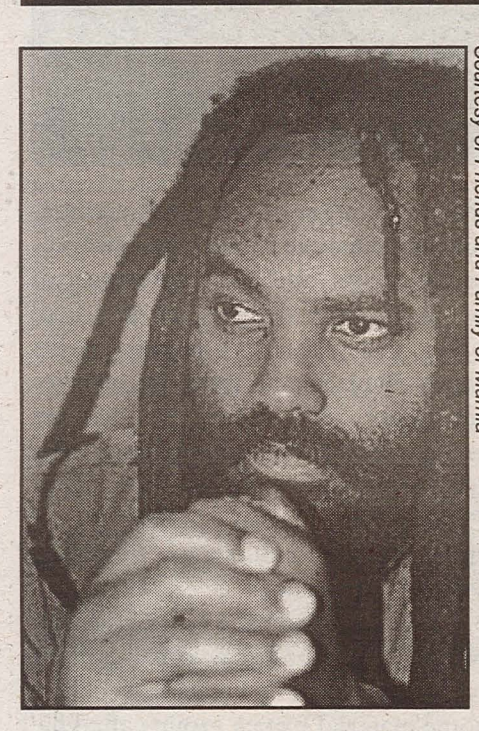
Photo by Nia Imara

Ruth Villa (Jones), recently turned 100 years old. She helped organize BPP's SAFE program for seniors and BPP's first free breakfast program in Oakland, CA.

Mumia Update



Courtesy of Friends and Family of Mumia

Dear Friends:

On October 4, 2006, our Reply Brief in response to the briefs submitted by the district attorney will be filed on behalf of Mumia Abu-Jamal in the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, Philadelphia. This is pursuant to a September 1 court order.

We continue to aggressively pursue relief for Mr. Abu-Jamal. On July 20, Professor Judith L. Ritter, associate counsel, and I filed a lengthy opening brief supported by voluminous exhibits. A week later NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., through Christine Swarns filed an amicus curiae (friend of the court) brief. A separate *amicus curiae* brief was filed for the National Lawyers Guild by Jill Soffiyah Elijah of the Harvard Law School, Professor Zachary Wolfe of George Washington University Law School, and Heidi Boghosian, its Executive Director. They were joined by the National Conference of Black Lawyers, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice of Harvard Law School, Southern Center for Human Rights, and the National Jury Project. These *amicus* briefs greatly strengthen our quest to protect the constitutional rights of Mr. Abu-Jamal and secure a reversal.

This case concerns my client's right to a fair trial, and the struggle against the death penalty and the political repression of an outspoken journalist. Racism and politics are threads that have run through this case since his 1981 arrest. The issues under consideration by the court which are complex and of great significance under the United States Constitution, include:

1) Whether Mr. Abu-Jamal was denied the right to due process of law and a fair trial under the Fifth, Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments because of the prosecutor's "appeal after appeal" argument that called upon the jurors to disregard the right to the presumption of innocence and reasonable doubt, and err on the side of guilt.

"Our purpose is to win this life-and-death struggle, gain a new and fair trial, and see our client walk out of jail a free person."

2) Whether the prosecutor's use of peremptory challenges to exclude African Americans from sitting on the jury violated Mr. Abu-Jamal's right to due process and equal protection of the law under the Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments and contravened the prohibition against racism in jury selection held in *Batson v. Kentucky,* 476 U.S. 79 (1986).

3) Whether the verdict form and jury instructions that resulted in the death penalty deprived Mr. Abu-Jamal of rights guaranteed by the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to due process of law, equal protection of the law, and not to be subjected to cruel and unusual punishment, and violated *Mills v. Maryland,* 486 U.S. 367 (1988), since the judge precluded jurors from considering any mitigating evidence unless they all agreed on the existence of a particular special circumstance.

4) Whether Mr. Abu-Jamal was denied due process and equal protection of the law under the Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments during post-conviction proceedings as a result of the bias of Judge Albert F. Sabo which included the statement that he was going to "help'em fry the nigger."

The case continues to move rapidly. Once the briefing phase is complete, we will present oral argument before a three-judge panel in the U.S. Court of Appeals. I will notify you when a date is eventually set.

Our purpose is to win this life-and-death struggle, gain a new and fair trial, and see our client walk out of jail a free person. However, Mr. Abu-Jamal remains in great danger. If the case is lost, he will be executed.

Thank you for your concern and support in this campaign for justice.

With best wishes,
Robert R. Bryan
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¡Viva Fidel! Long Live Fidel!

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By Mumia Abu-Jamal

The recent news of the illness of Cuban President Fidel Castro has unleashed a ghoulish glee in Miami, and also in the White House. The spectacle of people dancing in the streets of Miami, at news of Fidel's sickness was disgraceful.

Few of us who have grown up under the propaganda that passes for the corporate media have any real idea of either Castro's or Cuba's immense social accomplishments, while under the threat of U.S. invasion and destruction. As a student of history, I'm often amazed at what we don't know about other people, even those as close as Cuba. If Americans truly supported democracy, instead of dictatorships, the name Fidel Castro may never have become known to us. That's because Castro, as a young man, newly graduated from law school, endeavored to run for the Cuban Senate as a "clean government" candidate. His platform opposed political repression and corruption, and how major Cuban institutions had been bought off by the U.S.-Mafia elites. He spoke out against *vende-patrias* (sell-outs) among the politicians, and also denounced the press because journalists were being bought with *botellas* (or bribes). He opposed the corruption of the dictatorship's courts. Guess who the U.S. supported? The U.S. supported the dictator, Fulgencia Batista, a man who was legendary for his brutality and his corruption.

Given the legal challenge posed by the young Castro, his election was scuttled by the Batista regime, and Castro learned that there was no "legal" way to oppose the regime. The U.S. has always preferred its own brutal puppets to democrats, and has done so on every continent in the world. What we also don't hear about is the actions of the U.S. against Cuba, which can only be called terrorism. Under either "Operation Pluto," "Operation Mongoose", or "Operation JM Wave," the U.S. has bombed factories, plotted overthrow, planned and tried to carry out assassinations, worked with organized crime, destroyed crops and other crimes. The famous Church Committee reports unveiled several assassination attempts against Fidel, which were "coordinated with the Mafia dons Meyer Lansky, John Roselli, Sam Giancana, and Santo Trafficante," all of whom owned businesses on the island. Before the Cuban Revolution, the island was called a "Mafia paradise," for the Mafia leaders owned casinos, nightclubs, whorehouses, and also legitimate businesses, like banks, airlines, TV stations and newspapers. For example, in one 8-month period alone (in 1961), the CIA committed 5,780 acts of sabotage and terrorism against Cuba, including several attempts to assassinate the Cuban president.

The U.S.-supported repression, brutality and corruption forced Fidel, and millions of other Cubans, to become revolutionaries, instead of democrats. And, once a revolutionary, it forced him to become an internationalist, supporting freedom struggles all around the world.

In late 1975, when armies of the racist regime of South Africa invaded Angola, it was Cuba that sent 18,000 troops to assist the beleaguered African state. By year's end, Cuba's 36,000 soldiers, with their Angolan allies, bested South Africa in the field, forcing them to retreat, for the first time in the history of apartheid. It was, Fidel would later say, an "African Giron," a reference to Cuba's battlefield victory over the U.S. in the Bay of Pigs. (The U.S., of course, supported the South Africans, and several brutal terrorist armies, the FNLA, and UNITA).

While it may be true that Fidel is ailing, it's also true that he, and the Revolution that he helped lead, has been a force for good in the world, on the side of the oppressed, not the oppressors. It has been on the side of freedom, not slavery.

Consider, if you will, how many people, in Vietnam, in Chile, in Argentina, in South Africa, in Iraq, in Palestine have suffered needlessly, because of the actions, exploitation, support of dictators, secret wars of repression, by U.S. presidents over these last 50 years.

How many assassinations, bombings, stolen elections, proxy wars, etc., etc., have been plotted in the dens of the White House against the peoples of the world?

So we join our Cuban friends in saying: **¡Viva Fidel! ¡Viva la Revolución Cubana! ¡Venceremos!**

[Source: Nieto, Clara. Masters of War: Latin America and U.S. Aggression (N.Y.: Seven Stories Press, 2003), pp. 33, 78-9, 217)]

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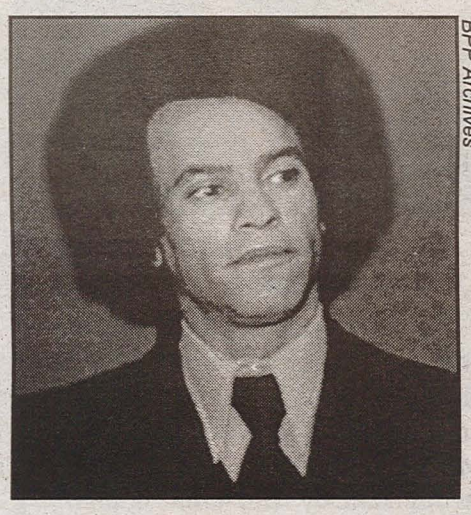
Archives

The War Against the Panther: A Study of Repression in America and the CIA

Huey's Corner



BPP Archives

By Dr. Huey P. Newton

The following article by Dr. Huey P. Newton is a continuation from The Commemorator's July 2006 issue. This is the last chapter from Newton's 1977 dissertation for The History of Consciousness program at the University of California Santa Cruz. As the dissertation was a history of the attacks against the Black Panther Party, Newton writes of himself in the third person. The thesis "The War Against the Panther: A Study of Repression in America," was published as a book by the Huey P. Newton Foundation (Writers and Readers, 1999) — available at your local bookstore or directly from Huey P. Newton Foundation. This excerpt is the last chapter in the last section, and it deals with the CIA's operation in violation of its own bylaws and policies.

When the CIA was formed in 1947, the statute creating it, the National Security Act, provided that "the agency shall have no police, subpoena, law enforcement powers, or internal security functions."[147] The Huston plan, as already noted, [In 1970, an attempt was made by President Nixon to institutionalize burglary as an instrument of presidential policy] proposed ignoring this injunction. Though the Huston plan was allegedly never formally adopted, it now appears that the CIA did place operatives in the street, kept extensive files on United States citizens, infiltrated political organizations, and pulled COINTELPRO types of stunts.[148] Most infamous, of course, is the CIA's admission that it provided "technical assistance" in 1971 to its former employee, E. Howard Hunt, when he led the White House "plumbers" in a burglary of the office of the psychiatrist who once treated Daniel Ellsberg, the man who disclosed the Pentagon papers.[149]

In 1975, the Rockefeller Commission investigated abuses by the CIA and concluded that the agency exceeded its authority. The Senate Select Committee reported in 1976 that the CIA had a program of domestic spying, which primarily consisted of "mail-covers"—i.e., opening and copying the mail of targeted political persons—and intelligence gathering on dissidents. Neither official investigations discussed in any way what *The New York Times* disclosed in 1978: the CIA "recruited American Blacks in the late 1960's and early 1970's to spy on members of the Black Panther Party, both in the United States and in Africa."[150] Spying was not, however, solely for the purpose of gathering information about the Party.

One longtime CIA operative with direct knowledge of the spying said, however, that there was an additional goal in the case of the Black Panthers living abroad: to "neutralize" them; "to try and get them in trouble with local authorities wherever they could." [151]

The kinds of activities engaged in by the FBI to "neutralize" the Party, as has been shown, span the gamut of illegal "dirty tricks," not stopping even at murder. Direct evidence of CIA dirty tricks used against the Panthers is, however, sparse. Neither the Presidential Commission nor the Senate Committee revealed any information about tactics directed at the Panthers. Perhaps, this was a cover-up in complicity with the committees, or maybe the CIA just acted as a "law unto itself," unaccountable to Congress or the President in disclosing or explaining its actions. When *The New York Times* asked for an explanation of this hiatus in the government investigations, it was told by one former CIA official that the reason the committees didn't learn about these anti-Panther activities was because:

They didn't ask. We treated the Senate inquiry as an adversary proceeding. Had they asked, we would have dug out the answers.[152]

Undoubtedly, the CIA possessed much incriminating information to "dig out." When the BPP filed its federal civil rights lawsuit against, *inter alia,* the CIA in 1976, agency officials submitted affidavits to the court suggesting the extent of its recorded activities with respect to the Party:

Apart from cases where it is not possible to perform a record search... Progress has been made in identifying ...several thousand documents relating... to the Black Panther Party.[153]

Another CIA official testified that " . . . certain portions [of the party's discovery request] can be addressed at the present time. This is being done. However, a significant proportion of documents recovered to date bear classification markings indicating that their contents include information which must be protected in the interests of national security."[154]

Perhaps because the CIA equates national security with protection of its own image, the documents sought will never be revealed. "A [Rockefeller] Commission investigator acknowledged [that] the report [i.e., Rockefeller Commission report] did not [also] mention that between 150 and 200 CIA domestic files on Black dissidents had been destroyed before the Commission's inquiry.[155] Of those documents the CIA has admitted exist, only a couple of hundred pages, at most, have been produced in the past four years in response to the Party's formal litigation discovery efforts. Many of these pages are replete with extensive "white-outs" or "black-outs"—i.e., deletion of so-called classified material—and are, therefore, uninformative. Nonetheless, those few pages produced reveal that within the United States the CIA infiltrated the Party with informants and attended meetings and public functions in order to identify Party members by taking their photographs and compiling information on them. Overseas activities of the CIA focused on Panthers in Africa and included one operative who became the owner of a small hotel where Party supporters and associates lodged. The hotel's annual deficit was even made up by the CIA.[156]

The likelihood that the truth about CIA efforts to "neutralize" the Party will never be fully known is great. Aside from the admitted destruction by the CIA of files concerning the BPP and failure to respond to civil discovery efforts, one man who had first-hand knowledge of the operation noted, "If they, i.e., CIA had gotten exposed, then it would have been the CIA versus the Black Panthers and all Black Americans—they've had a lot of Americans against them. The agency would have been exposed, open to attack."[157]

147 50 U. S. C. Sec. 403.

148 Ungar, FBI, p. 479.

149 Ibid.

150 Hersh, Seymour: "CIA Reportedly Recruited Blacks for Surveillance of Panther Party," *New York Times,* March 17, 1968, p. A1.

151 Ibid., p. A16, col. 3-4, Cooperation between local police departments, the FBI and, presumably, the CIA, to disrupt the BPP was extensive, as evidenced, *Inter alia,* by the official conspiracy to murder Fred Hampton. The Senate Select Committee found that the FBI encouraged local police to make "raids on the home of BPP members, often with little or no apparent evidence of violations of State or

Continued on page 16

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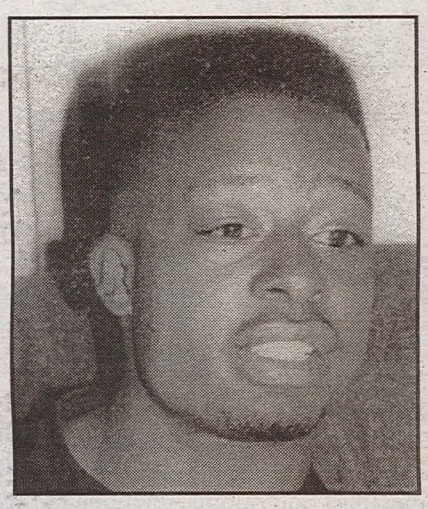
In Memoriam

Leslie Turrell Slater: February 14, 1973 - July 20, 2006



A Panther Pub.

Editor's Note: *Leslie was the son of CCBPP Board members, Cynthia and James Slater. James was a member of the BPP. Leslie was born into a BPP family and attended elementary school at the BPP's Oakland Community Learning Center. On August 25, 1990, at the founding event of CCBPP, Leslie and his sister Neico carried the commemoration banner to honor the memory of Huey P. Newton.*

February 14, 1973, God created a handsome masterpiece by the name of Leslie Turrell Slater. He was born and raised in Oakland, CA by his proud and beloved parents, James M. Slater and Cynthia A. Slater. In his formative years he attended the Oakland Community School through the 5th grade, finishing 6th grade at Jefferson Elementary School. He continued on to middle school at McChesney Junior High School, and graduated from Oakland High School, where he received certifications in the field of education.

Leslie was the eldest of three children. He was a very energetic and happy child. Being the firstborn, he was ruled and bossed around by his two younger sisters. Of course he loved them to death.

All through his primary and secondary schooling he participated in baseball and basketball, winning various trophies in each sport. Just like any youth growing up in the 80s he wrote and performed his own raps. He was part of a group called "Restricted Territory." He had always loved music and dancing. He made a profession out of his love for music by becoming a DJ, although Leslie was shy and soft spoken at times. One of his favorite statements was "I demand respect."

Leslie had a magnetic, outgoing and kindhearted personality. He was very charismatic and many people benefited from his generosity. Leslie was the nucleus of his family, always maintaining strong ties with his family members.

Leslie was very respectful of his elders and was very accommodating to all people. He was very nurturing, humble and loving. He never harbored any animosity towards anyone. He was a friend to the end and would always give his last dollar to anyone who needed it, even if it meant doing without.

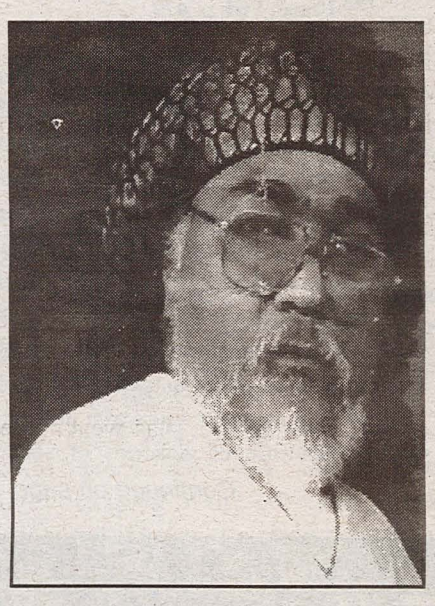
Leslie (background) with his family. Rashidah (sister), Cynthia (mother), James (father), Neico (sister).

Leslie had a passion for working with youth and raising awareness. He had a desire to start a group home for the youth and make a difference in their lives.

On July 20, 2006 many lives were changed by the tragic death of Leslie Turrell Slater. He was preceded in death by Benjamin Slater, Sr. (paternal grandfather), Claudia Bell Slater (paternal grandmother), Rasheed Slater (paternal uncle), Mildred Ware (paternal aunt), Frank Slater (paternal uncle), and Flossie Campbell (maternal great grandmother).

Survivors include his loving parents James and Cynthia Slater; his beautiful sisters, Neico Slater-Sa-Ra and Rashidah Slater, Dolie Mae McCoy (maternal grandmother), Arties McCoy (maternal grandfather); Gracie Mae Davis (paternal great aunt), Teresa Campbell (maternal great aunt), Earlene Waters (maternal great aunt), Ozell Domingo (great aunt), Kokahyi Sa-Ra (brother-in-law); Afiya Sa-Ra and Oluremi Sa-Ra (nieces), Kwabena Sa-Ra and Abayomi Sa-Ra (nephews), Benjamin Slater, Jr. (Lois), Charles E. Wright, Sr. (Vanessa), Ronald McCoy (Addie), Billy Rae McCoy, Jeremy McCoy (Janice), and Mark Green (uncles); Loretta McCoy (aunt), and a whole host of other relatives and friends.

Michael Zinzun: February 14, 1949 - July 9, 2006



Michael Zinzun was born February 14, 1949 in Chicago, Illinois. He was the second child born to Michael and Jean Zinzun.

Michael migrated to Oakland, California in 1959 where he resided with his cousin Carmen Collins until his mom and eight brothers and sisters arrived.

Michael attended Light House Full Gospel Church pastored by Matthew A. Jones, where he received his spiritual foundation. Michael always respected and highly esteemed Elder Jones and his teachings.

Michael attended Lincoln Elementary, McKinley Jr. High and finished at Blair High School. Upon completing school, He set out to conquer the world. Michael had dreams and he knew at an early age that he was destined for greatness, born to lead and organize.

Several years later Michael enrolled in LA Tech. Upon graduation, he became a certified Auto Mechanic. Shortly thereafter, Michael opened his own automotive shop located in Altadena, California where he enjoyed repairing every kind of car you could image. However, this was not enough for Mike, being there at the shop learning how to repair cars. This went on for several years.

Michael began to hunger for more, so he closed the shop and set out to research and study other areas of concern. He became an active member of the world renowned Black Panther Party for Self Defense, he was an organizer of the free breakfast, free clothing and food bank programs, which were eventually implemented nationwide. In 1972, he founded the Pasadena Information Center, which provided the above reference services as political and legal services. His free "Off the Roach" pest extermination program was very successful. Zinzun estimates that over 20,000 homes had been exterminated.

He founded the Los Angeles based Coalition Against Police Abuse, the Police Misconduct Lawyer Referral Service and the Southern Africa Support Committee. He traveled extensively around the globe, to diverse countries such as Namibia, Africa, Cuba, Brazil, China, and many of the European countries to oversee elections as part of a United Nations sanctioned and sponsored observer team. This official team included former President Jimmy Carter.

He attended a five country European speaking tour, his topic being "Drugs and Police Abuse", in such diverse countries as Spain, Germany Italy, England and the Netherlands. It was billed as a "Tour For Change."

Michael Zinzun hosted a live television talk show "Message from the Grass Roots" for three years.

Zinzun is survived by his wife Florence, two children and four stepchildren: Robert, Randy, Michael Jr., Kindra, Tony and Michele; his mother, Jean Ornelas of Fontana, father-in-law and mother-in-law James and Betty Berdley of Los Angeles; seven siblings, Linda Smith of Duarte, Mateo Ornelas of Chicago, Raquel Ornelas-Barlow of Atlanta, Juanita Ornelas-Edwards of Fontana, Juan Ornelas of Oklahoma City, Carmen Ornelas-Crutchfield of West Covina and Antonio Ornelas of Atlanta and Rita Zinzun who preceded Michael in death. Michael also had nineteen grandchildren, a host of nieces and nephews that he loved dearly.

FATHER
My father knows the proper way
The nation should be run;
He tells us children every day
Just what should now be done?
All public questions that arise,
He settles on the spot;
He waits not till the
turmoil dies,
But grabs it while it's hot.
It almost makes him sick to read
The things lawmakers say;
My father is just the man they need,
He never goes astray.
In conversation father can
Do many wondrous things;
He's built upon a wiser plan
Than presidents or kings.
He knows the ins and outs of each
And every deep transaction;
We look to him for theories,
And look to him for action

DADDY
I WILL ALWAYS LOVE YOU!

Your daughter,
Michele

International Update

Misión Ribas Makes Education Available for All Venezuelans

By Trevor Gardner

As a teacher at East Oakland Community High School, a small public high school founded three years ago, I know well the effects of educational exclusion and marginalization. In the community where I teach, failure and dropping out is more common than graduating from high school. Students going to public schools in East Oakland learn early that a different path has been carved out for them and it definitely does not lead to college degrees and positions of power in this country. By the time many youth make it to high school, they have already been failed so terribly by schools and society that they have lost faith in formal education. Society's message to them is clear: we don't care about you; you are never going to succeed; your desired place in this country is prison or poverty.

Last summer, I spent five weeks in Sanare, Venezuela, learning from, interviewing, building community and living with the people impacted most deeply by the new Bolivarian Education System. I attended classes in which a 75-year old grandfather who had learned to read only three years previously discussed the political necessity of literacy with a 15-year old mother who had dropped out of high school to take care of her newborn daughter. I spent many 3 a.m. nights with the young teachers who volunteer four to five days per week at *Misión Ribas*, discussing the roles that inclusion, liberation and community play in the education of a people. In Venezuela, I was surrounded by an energy defined by the possibilities of education and the role of a learned citizenry in transforming a country for the benefit of all people.

Sitting front row in the packed Casa de los Abuelos (Home for Grandparents) in the small mountainous town of Sanare, a 17-year old lightning bolt, in the form of a young man named Edgar Suarez, struck me with the purpose of why I was there in Venezuela; the motivation for taking on an educational fellowship that would carry me throughout the country investigating the effectiveness of the educational and social transformations the country had been undergoing; and the reason why I chose to become an educator eight years ago.

Edgar Suarez is almost blind. He comes from a family of campesinos living and working the land around Sanare. Edgar has spent the last two years of his life, four days per week, walking over two hours to attend classes at the *Misión Ribas*, one of three adult literacy projects set in motion three years ago in an attempt to eliminate illiteracy and give all citizens equal access to education. Today, Edgar Suarez, along with 20 classmates from various pueblos surrounding Sanare (most of whom are the first in their families to achieve any level of education beyond primary school, let alone completing high school), graduated from *Misión Ribas*. As he gave the final speech at the graduation ceremony, his words were not complex. Edgar spoke spontaneously and from the soul: "I never thought I would ever accomplish anything like this. I am just thankful for the opportunity I have been given to accomplish my dream. I know that the future will be difficult but we will always move forward."

Edgar Suarez is one of the faces of the new approach to education in Venezuela; what they are calling the Bolivarian Education System. Another face is Ayleen Jimenez. A woman in her mid-thirties with three children, Ayleen has dedicated her life to the adult education and literacy programs in the small town of Sanare, where she grew up. She is the coordinator for *Misión Ribas*, the nationwide education program that provides adults with three years of high school-equivalency schooling.

A rally in support of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in downtown Caracas, April 2006

Misión Ribas is part of a larger system that allows adults with little or no formal education to follow a six-year path culminating in a high school diploma and the opportunity to continue on to the university system.

Ask any of the thousands of *Vencedores,* a term used for the students of *Misión Ribas*, which literally translates to "conquerors" or "victors," and she will explain that the Bolivarian Education System and the education *Misiones* in Hugo Chávez's Venezuela are about **inclusion**; whereas, in the past, like most capitalist nations, education had always been a highly exclusive institution in Venezuela, preserving the status quo and reserving most spaces in the prestigious public and private universities for the children of the wealthy and privileged. Edgar Suarez was not welcome in these institutions and the millions of those like him were certainly not valued for their role as learners or potential leaders in Venezuelan society. But Chávez, and the emerging Bolivarian Education System, are rapidly and forcefully pushing to change that history of exclusion and neglect.

Until the rise of this Bolivarian Revolution, led by Hugo Chávez, the message to Edgar Suarez and the millions of young people like him living in Venezuela (one of the most resource-rich nations on the planet) was the same: education is not an open door to opportunity but a machine that serves the status quo of inequity and wealth disparity. But this reality is realizing a period of revolutionary change with the strengthening of the education *Misiones — Robinson, Ribas and Sucre.*

The Bolivarian Education system is young. Naturally, it has weaknesses and flaws that must be improved if it is to continue leading Venezuela to revolutionary new places of humanity, community, equality and justice. But

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BPP Archive

In 1969 young girls in Oakland, CA participate in BPP rally.

BPP Archive

Nutritious food is necessary for learning. In 1969, BPP started their Free Food Program in Oakland, CA.

BPP 40th Anniversary

Continued from page 1

errors of the BPP, to build on that legacy a revolutionary movement that can achieve the victory for which so many have already given their lives and for the lack of which so many more continue to suffer, at home and abroad.

The practice and objectives of the Ten-Point Program, first introduced in 1966, are needed now, more than ever. In a speech at Boston College in 1970, Dr. Huey P. Newton explained the Panthers' ideological position and why BPP saw it necessary to institute a Ten-Point Program. He stated:

A Ten-Point Program is not revolutionary in itself, nor is it reformist. *It is a survival program.* We, the people, are threatened with genocide because racism and fascism are rampant in this country and throughout the world. And the ruling circle in North America is responsible. ...In order to change that, there must be a total transformation. But until we can achieve that total transformation, we must exist. In order to exist, we must survive; therefore, we need a survival kit: the Ten-Point Program.

Following a period of curtailment of U.S. government militarism in the immediate aftermath of the Vietnam War, necessitated by the U.S. people's majority rejection of that foreign policy, in combination with the victorious struggle of the people of Vietnam against the U.S.' counterrevolutionary war efforts, the United States government has, for the past 23 years (since the U.S. invasion of Grenada in 1983) spread intensifying imperialist wars of aggression. International monopoly capitalism is ravaging and pillaging the Persian Gulf and other targets of opportunity around the globe.

Simultaneously, over the past 30 years, international monopoly capitalism has been forced to strip the "bribe" of higher wages, benefits and job security from the upper echelons of the U.S. working class, and push higher paid workers into lower-paid jobs and deprofessionalize the professional class.

Therefore, today, the "survival program" of the BPP 10-Point Program may be needed by a recent university graduate, by a downsized worker, by an unemployed attorney or a small proprietor who has lost his business, as much as by those who have only ever known poverty their whole lives. As Newton put it, "If we do nothing we are accepting the situation and allowing ourselves to die. We will *not* accept that."

Newton and the Panthers put forward the theory of "reactionary intercommunalism" to define the stage of international monopoly capitalism where there are no national borders that the international bourgeoisie cannot cross, and no people of any given nation to whom they owe allegiance or loyalty. "Revolutionary intercommunalism" calls for international solidarity among workers worldwide, joining with revolutionaries of all nations.

We must always remember that the savage foreign and domestic policies of international monopoly capital are not a sign of their strength; rather they show how weak and nonviable the capitalist system is in that they must resort to outright fascist means of control and financial exploitation to stay in power; they must utilize massive military and police networks and exhaust billions of our tax dollars to support their empire.

At home, they continue genocidal policies against Blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans and other minorities; to them the poor and working people — regardless of nation of origin — are only valued as cheap sources of labor or political tools. Today, that has taken the most extreme form within the U.S. prison industrial complex.

The U.S. government uses the IMF, World Bank, U.S. foreign economic aid, military and police occupation and repression to introduce and maintain U.S. and other international monopoly corporate control over foreign economies. Millions of working people worldwide are in a state of enslavement.

The Non-Aligned Movement, composed of leaders of 118 such developing countries, have advanced a vision and demand for a sane future for mankind — and that requires an end to the insanity of this system by the people of this country taking a stand.

The United States (and the U.N. doing the U.S.'s bidding) has a long history of invasions and wars — the Philippines, Guatemala, El Salvador, Cuba, Grenada, Panama, Yugoslavia, etc. — on top of its current siege upon the peoples of Iraq and Afghanistan and its threatening stance toward Iran, North Korea and Venezuela, among others. The U.S. government continues to use any means necessary to expand its control over raw materials and cheap labor; it seeks to stop liberation movements that are "in the way" of its imperialist plans. While billions of U.S. tax dollars are poured into the war in Iraq and the whole Middle East, our domestic work force is every day facing increased poverty conditions.

In fact, there is more unemployment and police brutality in our Black and poor communities now than ever before. There is 90% unemployment in some low-income Black communities according to the government's own figures. Workfare programs give our people a welfare check for jobs that used to pay other people a living wage.

There are more Black and poor people incarcerated in the U.S. than ever before in history — more than were incarcerated in South Africa at the height of apartheid. The U.S. has the highest incarceration rate anywhere in the world. One third of Black men between the ages 20 and 29 are either in prison or under the jurisdiction of the criminal justice system. There are more Black and poor people dying from treatable diseases due to lack of affordable health care than ever. 40,000 children die of diseases everyday on this planet due to starvation, lack of access to clean water and lack of medical care and the majority of those are children of color. And all this despite the fact that there are now over 8,000 Black elected officials across the country.

The Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party (CCBPP) has, as its primary focus, advancing the goals and principles of the Black Panther Party as stated in its ideology and in the Ten-Point Program. *(reprinted in full on page 22)* We know that only in unity is there strength.

It was with these points in mind that CCBPP was formed in 1990, one year after the death of Dr. Huey P. Newton, co-founder of the Black Panther Party.

BPP History

Many founding members of the Black Panther Party came from the southern part of the United States, at a time when African-American people in many southern states were not allowed to vote. In most places it was illegal for African-American people to use the same public facilities as whites. This was called Jim Crowism.

Through the '50's and early '60's, many African-Americans joined the military with the hope of escaping the conditions of Jim Crowism and oppression and with the promise of obtaining a marketable skill. In the South, many thought that if they got a marketable skill that would lead to personal liberation. In the South, low-income African-Americans without a vocation had an especially difficult time finding a "good job" to "get ahead." Student and community protests and legal challenges fought to end segregated schools.

In 1966, the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense emerged from a working class black community in Oakland, led by two young college students, Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale. They drafted a Ten-Point Program, clearly outlining the goals of the fledgling organization. The program addressed many manifestations of poverty, racial discrimination and the police brutality that existed in the low-income African-American community. The Party stood out as a ray of hope and inspiration.

Huey, Bobby and "Li'l Bobby" Hutton drove around Oakland in a car with a police radio, armed with a law book, a tape recorder, a loudspeaker and guns in open view — a then-lawful practice — for self-defense of members of our community.

They would tell brothers and sisters their rights when they were being abused by the racist white police officers, many recruited from the South.

There was a Black consciousness movement growing throughout the country and on campuses where Black students attended. It was one year after the Watts uprising of 1965. Black communities throughout the nation protested and revolted against racial discrimination, economic exploitation and police brutality.

Shortly after the Black Panther Party began, right-wing political forces in Oakland began to call for Oakland City College, located in the heart of the Black community, to be moved to the Oakland hills. This eventually occurred, and people soon began to call it Merritt College, the official name. What initially attracted many to the Black Panther Party was its militant, not-turning-the-other-cheek stance. Most of this generation living in Black urban communities began to endorse the ideas of Malcolm X. In 1965, a year before the Black Panther Party formed, Malcolm X was assassinated in Harlem, shortly after he had conducted a speaking tour in Oakland and the San Francisco Bay Area at large.

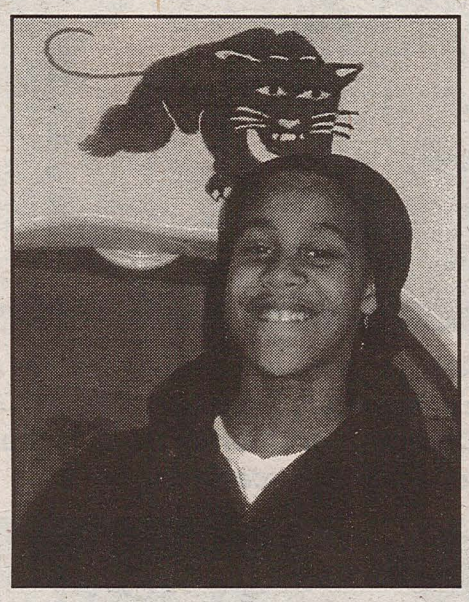
Malcolm X made a lot of sense to many oppressed African-Americans; they were tired of watching television reports of the strategically non-violent protests in the South that left African-

Continued on page 11

Kids Corner

The Truth of Black Roots

Haneefah is a thirteen year old gifted student enrolled with the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign. She is disciplined in her work and has a charismatic personality. A poet, a black historian, rapper, dancer, pianist, and painte,. Haneefah has something to say.



by Haneefah

There's been so much bombing
I can't take it
Some people really don't care, I just want to erase It
Guess how I know some people don't care
Because when they read the news they really don't hear
Because if they did care the same stuff wouldn't be happening
Some people say, "Oh that's sad," but they don't know the meanin within.

Stupid, dumb, and hyphee,
oh I think they like me
It's not only a dance but a bad curse inside thee

I couldn't believe it
All the black roots were curried
Black Wall Street smile and the 4 little girls died.

The stories are all alike and some people say they're old
There're newer and newer until you realize the story they told
More and more stories from black root
25, 26, and a big ole scoop
I say everyday "Lord why do good people even die?
But now I know why

All this stress in this world and all this drama;
it's really better to just say bye to your mama

"Would you want your family to live in a world
with all these terrible events, and tricks; especially now
cause some events we can never ever fix."

We should all try to work in a community;
because if we work it all through even all of us will be free

We will, but we would never have to pray for a better day; but when God makes a choice, let Freedom and our dreams never be erased.

Our People: The Jacksons

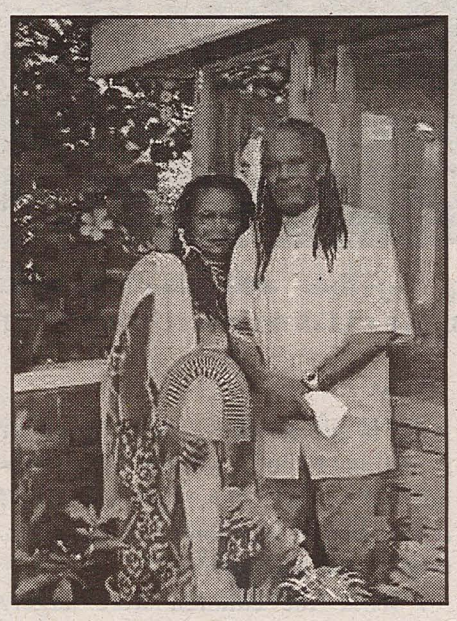
(Dedicated to Jonathan and George Jackson)

When our people are locked up for somethat tha's good not wrong
We should fight for what's right and also be strong.
Fight for what's right is what our people should do
From the Soul of Jonathan Jackson
We should never be fooled
Fooled by the police
Fooled by anyone else
Don't try to be them
Try to be yourself
And appreciate, be proud of who you are
No matter what situation might be,
No matter how far the journey might be
Our kind is not only a gift but a revolution
And if we follow that lead the truth will always be within.

Haneefah

Brother Pete and Sister Charlotte O'Neal have resided in Imbaseni, Tanzania since the late 60s. Brother Pete was a founder of Kansas City branch of the Black Panther Party. He and sister Charlotte have maintained their commitment to the goals and principles of BPP through their practice over the many years of struggle in their small village, where they continue to reside.

For the BPP 40th Anniversary, Sister Charlotte will participate in a workshop on building solidarity with Africans and African Americans, learning healing, establishing relationships and networks.



Pete and Charlotte
at home in Imbaseni Village, site of
United African-American Alliance
Community Center (UAACC)
April 23, 2005

Photo by Sherry Whetstone McCall

Brother Pete
And
Sister Charlotte
Once again thank YOU for all of your
Invaluable help in making the
UAACC
Heal the Community Tour 2005
the powerfully inspirational community event it was! Whereever the film ***(A Panther in Africa)*** was shown … whereever Charlotte Spoke about our work and mission … we were always very well received and encouraged to keep up the positive example… to keep planting the seeds… to keep on doin' the work! What a joy it is to let people know that we are continuing the community work and programs of the Black Panther Party … albeit thousands of miles away from the streets of Kansas City! We continue to communicate, plan and form alliances with good People wanting to volunteer and contribute both to our work and in their own communities!

It's so wonderful to witness the
colliding of spirits…
and touching…
and networking…
and building…
and
healing
our communities…
together!

GRASSROOTS ARTISTS MOVEMENT (G.A.ME), INC.

G.A.ME, Inc. is a grassroots artist campaign founded in 2001 by artists Erykah Badu, Mos Def, Talib Kweli and Dead Prez.

G.A.ME is an international non-profit that aims to provide health care, development and unionization to hip-hop and all artists with the goal of redirecting hip-hop resources back into the Black and Latino communities.

Artists on labels currently make an average $25,000 per year and receive few health benefits. GA.ME, Inc. and the International Artists Union (IAU) will be campaigning for a law to allow artists to unionize and bargain as a group with labels and music groups.

G.A.ME supports positive and influential Hip-Hop artists and puts out a CD compilation titled *Get in the G.A.ME* featuring artists such as Dead Prez and Immortal Technique. **G.A.ME** spoke at the National Hip-Hop Political Convention '04 on health disparities.

G.A.ME, Inc also was featured in *Russell Simmons' One World, XXI, the Source* and *Village Voice*. **G.A.ME** representatives have been interviewed on Power 105.1 FM, Hot97 and WBAI 99.5FM in New York City.

G.A.ME HealthCare Network

Since 2004, G.A.ME has offered free medical, dental and free to low-cost prescriptions for G.A.ME members. HealthCare services address diseases affecting the community such as HIV/AIDS and asthma with campaigns in the U.S. and Nigeria. G.A.ME also plans quarterly health screenings and forums on health education.

The R.E.B.E.L. Program
(Rallying Educating & Building Effective Leadership)

The R.E.B.E.L. programs offers youth leadership training for participants ages 14 to 25 and actively seeks to prevent youth incarceration. Alternative To Incarceration (ATI) under R.E.B.E.L. provides leadership training, employment assistance, academic help, and passes to community events.

Grassroots Artists MovEment (G.A.ME), Inc
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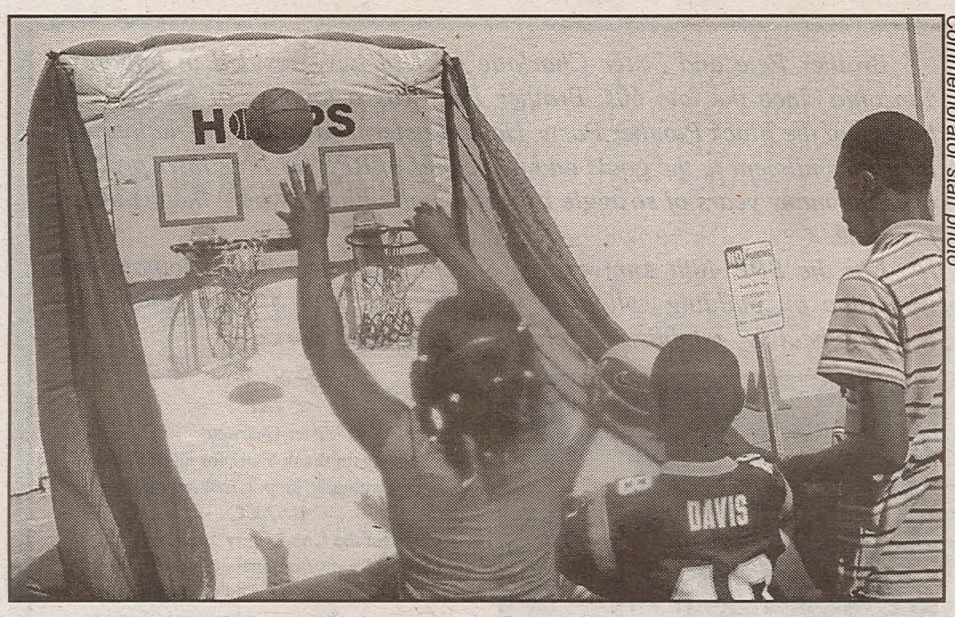
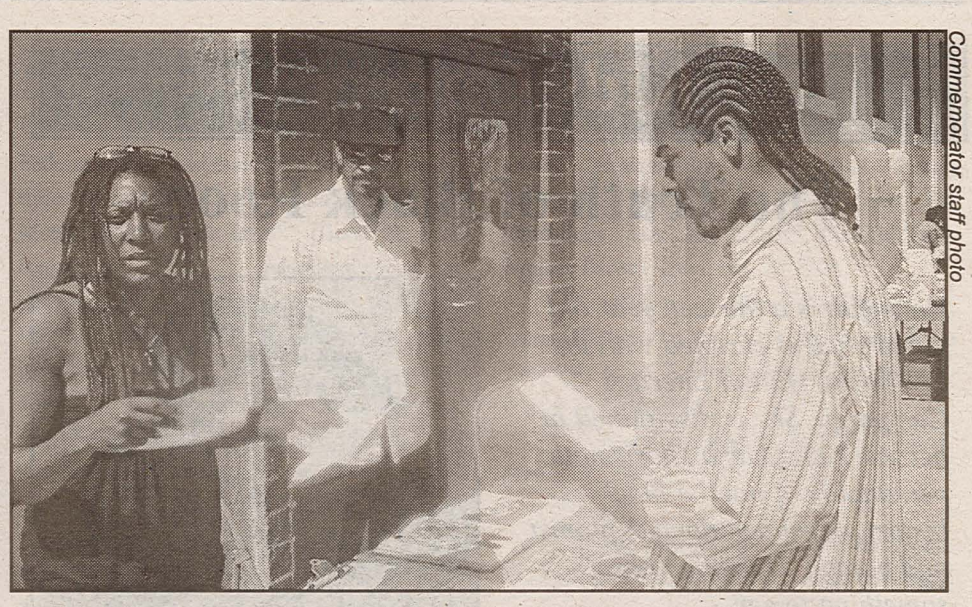


Commemorator staff photo

While the adults were coming together and greeting one another, meeting new neighbors, the children were having fun with the various games.



Commemorator staff photo

At the McGee Avenue Block Party, CCBPP literature table coordinator Shanrika Turner (left), and CCBPP Volunteers Coordinator Charles DuBois (center) explain Literacy Program to Kevin Broucaret (right).

Literacy Campaign Expands

Continued from page 1

introduce themselves and find out more about the program to tell a friend, relative or neighbor or to personally become a volunteer.

Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign tutors, Aqueila Lewis, Constance James, Pam Thomas and Kush Amen led the contingent of students from South Berkeley Community Church.

"The public education system has always been a tool used by the ruling class to control and manipulate the working class," said Charles DuBois, CCBPP Volunteers Coordinator. "In our inner cities, our youth — or our so-called 'minority youth' who actually make up the *majority* of youth in the inner city — are under attack at many levels. Public education is one of the areas that is hit hardest and the resultant poor education keeps our youth down. This is not just from the George W. Bushes and his class at the top, but also from local and state politicians. That's one reason we need to expand our Literacy Campaign."

At the block party, staff from the Oakland Zoo, the Berkeley Library, Fred Finch Youth Center, Turning Point and Longfellow Middle School's Health Related Programs and Services all set up tables and provided activities. The music was DJ'ed by Herman Coleman and his daughter, Rishona.

The Reverend Michael Smith told *The Commemorator* that he is "thankful for working and promoting healing in our communities." He said, "One of the ways towards healing is bringing people together. This block party, the backpack donations with school supplies for the kids, the support from Turning Point, Fred Finch, *The Commemorator*, and Berkeley Public Library is only a step. It can't stop here. We are losing too many of our youth. We want them to achieve and excel, and we want them to know they *can* achieve and excel. Our faith has to motivate us to reach beyond where we are now and change what is going on."

Elizabeth Coleman, Coordinator of the Youth Program for the church, who chaired the event, told *The Commemorator,* "There is a common strand in our community, and that is that the home life is changing. The issue is *not* having a place to go or something to do. If we as a church cannot take a stand, and take control of our destiny; if you don't own your destiny — that's a problem."

While the children were largely unfamiliar with BPP's legacy, many of the adults that visited the CCBPP table were familiar with key aspects of BPP's history in this area, where it all began. Some had parents who had been Panthers; others recalled how *they* had participated as children in the Party's survival programs of the 1970's. One woman recalled the times when black people came to Oakland from the South during World War II, looking for jobs. She observed, "Many of the programs in this community were started by the BPP, like the Free Breakfast Program. A lot of people don't know where those programs came from. They don't want us to know the Panthers started that."

By taking part in CCBPP's literacy campaign, you can help create a presence in the community in a framework that sets a positive example — you can't get anymore basic than learning READING AND WRITING in today's world. Our survival programs must be the glue that sticks, i.e., bonding with the people who are most affected by government's negligence, especially low-income, and working class, African American communities. To join with CCBPP, call us at 510-652-7170.

Commemorator staff photo

CCBPP volunteer organizers Charles DuBois (left), Shanrika Turner (center, behind table) and Joyce Hutton (right) tell neighbors and church members about the Literacy Campaign.

CCBPP's
Li'l Bobby Hutton
Literacy Program
NEEDS YOU
Become a tutor,
Learn to read,
Refer a friend.
Volunteer to help.
Call today
510-652-7170

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ATM/LOTTO
5442 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
• Oakland, CA 94609
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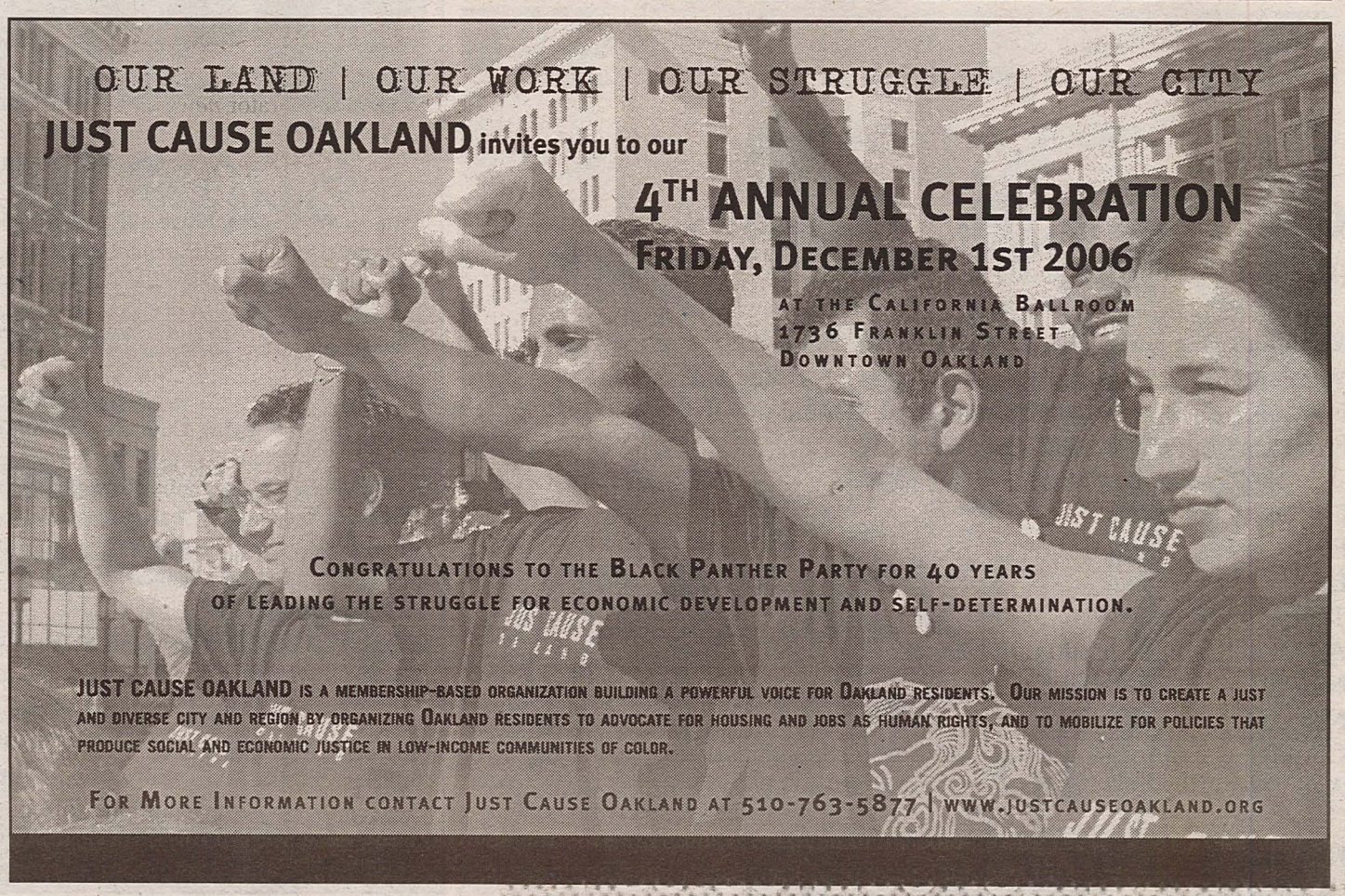
Hours: Mon - Sat: 7 am - 11 pm
Sun: 7 am - 10 pm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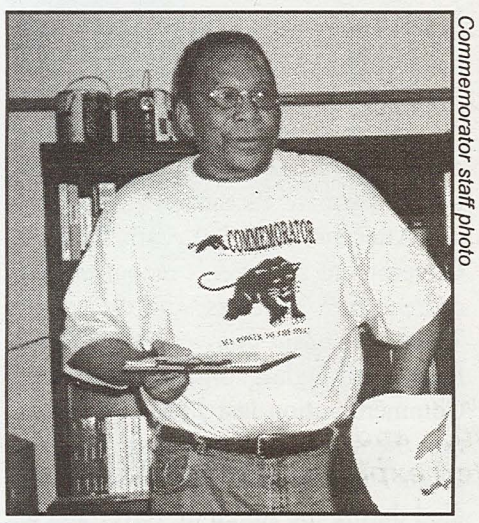
BPP 40th Anniversary

Continued from page 8



Commemorator staff photo

For the 40th Anniversary, Commemorator publisher and CCBPP Chair Melvin Dickson took responsibility to host a workshop on newspaper publishing.

American people with bashed heads, dogs sicced on them by racist white police officers, and that resulted in horrible deaths. This was an attempt to intimidate them into submission. The Black Panther Party emerged at a time when the younger generation of the civil rights movement was seeking other methods of struggle to fight the economic and social conditions of colonialization and exploitation of the U.S. working class and minorities.

Many felt that turning the other cheek, as put forth by Dr. King and other leaders of the civil rights movement, was not going to achieve their goal of ending the exploitation. When the Black Panther Party began to articulate the ideas of Malcolm X, Patrice Lumumba, Mao Tse-Tung and Che Guevara, it all seemed to make more sense. It was more advanced than the ordinary cultural nationalist groups in the community and on the campuses; it went deeper than the moderate, petty-bourgeois, aspiring-capitalist stratum of blacks, too many of whom were more interested in maintaining the status quo of capitalism than eliminating the root cause of poverty in the Black ghettos.

The "Pork Chop Nationalist" is someone who defines politics in a sociological (racial) framework rather than in an economic (class) framework. A "Pork Chop Nationalist" looks *ONLY* for the liberation of black people through capitalism and by going "back to Africa" culturally. The Black Panther Party disagreed with the "Pork Chop Nationalist" line because Black people have an investment in the United States and capitalism is an enemy of the working class throughout the world.

Today we face the federal Welfare Reform Act, prison industries, elimination of overtime pay and setting up enterprise zones and so-called Empowerment Zones that pit cities against each other vying to sell their poor for the cheapest wages, largest tax breaks to corporations, and the lowest safety and health standards in history for our local work force.

The lives of many — Black and white — changed philosophically and politically when members of the Party, led by Bobby Seale, made their famous trip to California's capitol building in Sacramento to protest a special bill to ban the ability to carry arms in open view for self-defense. The Panthers had gone into the capitol building openly armed with shotguns and pistols, demanding their Constitutional right to do so be protected. This image of Black militancy was promulgated by the media around the world.

Shortly thereafter, Huey was arrested and charged with murdering a police officer. Huey's arrest on the police murder charge produced a tremendous outpouring of support for him, the Party and Black low-income population. Thousands of members of that generation were swept into this great movement nationwide. Revolt, protest and revolution were in the air in this country. That political awareness also engendered political support for organizing against colonialism, capitalism and imperialism in third world nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The attitude in the urban ghetto communities changed

No one was going to allow the police to walk over them any more, kick their door down and brutalize them. Most everyone in the African-American community was concerned about whether Huey would survive the police. There were literally bets on the streets of Oakland that Huey would not live to see the streets again. "Charged with killing a white policeman. Man, he's already dead."

Meanwhile, the nation's urban Black ghettos were in a stage of political revolt. The Black Panther Party mushroomed during the "Free Huey" movement. The Party began to speak out against rioting and spontaneous, unorganized protests and, at the same time, called for organized self-defense against police brutality, oppression and poverty. The free breakfast program for school children developed from the "Free Huey" movement headed up by Bobby Seale and David Hilliard from 1967 through 1969, while Huey was incarcerated. In the African-American community, what Huey and the Party had been saying about politics and the need to organize for power, "All power to the people," made a lot of sense.

The reality of the repression

The Black Panther Party started a campaign against sickle cell anemia, a blood disease characterized by production of sickle-shaped red blood cells that create a severe and sometimes fatal lack of oxygen flow. This deadly disease primarily affects Black people and the U.S. government was ignoring it, not providing the necessary testing and research to fight it.

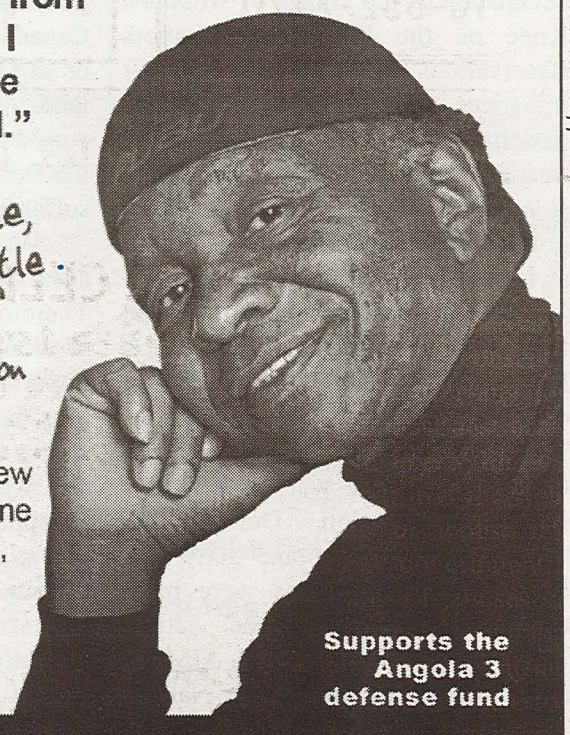
The Party, through its clinics and health programs did more tests for sickle cell anemia than all city, county, state and federal agencies combined during that period. Dr. Tolbert Small, a

Continued on page 18

"In 1962 I learned to make candy from a fellow prisoner named "Cap Pistol." Over the years, using a stove made from cans and tissue, I perfected the recipe from inside my cell."

"Now that I am free, I can make life a little sweeter for you!"

– Robert King Wilkerson



Delicious homemade New Orleans style pecan praline candy makes great gifts, and are perfect for your next meeting, event, party or snack!

Supports the Angola 3 defense fund

Robert King Wilkerson of the Angola 3 was wrongly incarcerated for 29 years in solitary confinement at Angola State Penitentiary, LA. He uses his "Freeline" candies to help spread the word about the Angola 3 and all political prisoners.

www.kingsfreelines.com

Courtesy of Itsabouttimebpp

Former Black Panther Aaron Dixon Bids for U.S. Senate

Editor note: *Aaron Dixon co-founder of the Washington State Chapter of the Black Panther Party is running for a U.S. senate seat from the Seattle community. He recently provided the following comment to* The Commemorator *newspaper:*

How do you see the relevance of the party program especially as it relates BPP Ten Point Program, to poverty, crime, drug addiction and other problems that plague the Black and poor communities in Seattle?

Mr. Dixon: We need to end the drug problem in our communities. The United States should stop fighting wars in Afghanistan, and Iraq and use that money to create housing for Americans, especially in the inner cities. We can create a National Jobs Program. . People can be paid a living wage, and obtain the training they need.

What do you suggest for education?

Mr. Dixon: We can use the money being spent in the wars abroad to overhaul the schools and put them in community hands where visionary people can create small classrooms and pay teachers what police and firemen make. The police should have community oversight, where they are responsible to a community council that is paid a good salary.

The poor and Black community often slides into the criminal judicial system, and since often there is no money to hire lawyers to help them out, often people resort to crime because of distressed situations. They can't find work, and are influenced by a traumatized environment, rife with both psychological and physical peril. When they are incarcerated they often cannot see families because they are often far away from them. What can we do about this devastation?

Mr. Dixon: We must create equitable community legal systems so crimes are addressed by a community committee. Prisons should be near the community,so families and incarcerated people can still visit and see each other. This is a much more humane way of treating people. Punishment should not be punitive, but rehabilitative. In third world countries they have detention centers, but the families live close. Indigenous cultures deal with legal issues in the community.

How do you see help for the youth?

Mr. Dixon: For youth in jeopardy boarding houses should be created. Here students can set goals such as getting their GED or High School Diploma. They learn cultural values and find alternate ways of staying out of the clutches of the police. We have a transitional housing program here and it is helping young people in setting goals and staying out of trouble.

Sponsorship provided by supporters of Aaron Dixon for U.S. Senate

Political Prisoner Updates

Political prisoner Eddie Conway is in good spirits for BPP 40th Anniversary

Marshall Eddie Conway

Excerpts taken from the Marshall "Eddie" Conway Legal Defense Fund

During the 1960s, the FBI, under J. Edgar Hoover, carried out its CounterIntelligence Program called COINTELPRO, aimed at the disruption of Black and political dissidents. Targeting the Black Liberation Movement, it sought, "to prevent the rise of a Black Messiah." Hoover called the Panthers in 1969, "the biggest thereat to national security."

On April 26, 1970, Marshall Eddie Conway reported to work at the U.S. Post Office in much the same fashion as he did on any ordinary day. While working on his shift, he received an unexpected visit from Baltimore police officers that arrested him in connection with the murder of one police officer and the shooting of two others.

On the night of April 25, 1970, two police officers, Donald Sager and Stanley Sierakowski, were ambushed and shot while responding to a domestic complaint at 1201 Myrtle Ave. in West Baltimore. Two men affiliated with the Black Panthers, James Powell and Jack Hohnson, were arrested near the scene of the crime. Police officer Roger Nolan responded to the call for help from fellow officers reported seeing a third man at a distance from where the two officers were shot. A warrant was issued for Eddie's arrest and he was implicated in the crime after being identified as the third party.

Although no evidence was ever found to link Eddie to the shootings, a known jailhouse informant, Charles Reynolds was the prosecutor's main piece of evidence. He was convicted on January 15, 1971 and sentenced to life plus 30 years.

"At the outset, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support. Like thousands of other individuals, organizations and groups, you have taken a stand against injustice. I have been wrongly held in Maryland's prisons since 1970 for a crime that I did not commit," stated Mr. Conway

* No physical evidence was ever submitted to link Eddie Conway to the scene of the shooting.

* Trial judge Charles Harris appointed defense attorney James McAllister to Eddie's case. McAllister met with Eddie twice for a total of 45 minutes about his case before they went to trial and no preliminary motions (such as motions of discovery) were filed on Eddie's behalf.

* Trial judge Charles Harris denied Eddie the right to be represented by Panther supporter and attorney Arthur Turco. Judge Harris initially granted Eddie the right to represent himself, but later imposed a court-appointed attorney which created a "hybrid" defense. This type of defense has been ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in the past.

Mr. Conway has been unable to receive any recommendation for parole from the Parole Board in spite of encouraging meetings with them. This is because Maryland's Governor has communicated to the Parole Board his intention of not granting parole to any lifers except the aged and terminally ill, according to the Marshall Eddie Conway Support Committee.

The prosecution built its case around the testimony of a Baltimore City Police Officer, Roger Nolan, and a Known jailhouse informant Charles Reynolds, who was placed in Eddie's cell despite his protests. Reynolds agreed to testify that Eddie admitted to killing police officer Donald Sager in return for a favorable mention to the parole board in the state of Michigan where he was wanted on charges of forgery.

The Baltimore chapter of the Black Panther Party was founded by Warren Hart, an alleged National Security Agent whose purpose was to corrupt the activities of the Baltimore BPP and infiltrate other branches.

Eddy was responsible for exposing informants, including Warren Hart, within the party, resulting in their expulsion. From that point on, he became a target for the Baltimore City Police Department and the FBI.

All power to the people.

Update on Leonard Peltier

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Working Group on Indigenous Peoples

Twenty Third Session, 31July - 04 August 2006: Subject: Indigenous peoples and conflict resolution - UN Commission on Human Rights.

Item 4

Review of developments pertaining to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples (c) "Indigenous peoples and conflict resolution."

Statement of Bobby Castillo - International Spokesperson for Leonard Peltier Defense Committee

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, I would like to express our thoughts on the theme "Indigenous peoples and conflict resolution."

On February 27, 1973, members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) began their seventy-two day occupation of the village of Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge Lakota Reservation. Their goal was to protest injustices against their indigenous nations, violations of the many treaties, and current abuses and repression against their people. The U.S. government responded with a military style assault against the protesters.

Throughout the next three years, long referred to by local Indigenous Peoples and by the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, as the "Reign of Terror," the FBI carried out a Counterinsurgency war on the Pine Ridge Reservation. During this "Reign of Terror," some sixty-four local Native Americans were murdered. Virtually all of the victims were either affiliated with AIM or their allies from the Lakota Nation. The FBI had jurisdiction to investigate major crimes, yet these deaths were never adequately investigated nor resolved.

The strife between the FBI and AIM culminated in a shootout on June 26, 1975 in Oglala. When the shootout ended, AIM member Joseph Killsright Stuntz lay dead, shot in the head by a U.S. Government sniper. His death has also never been investigated. Two FBI agents also found death that day. As you well know, Mr. Chair, these events led to the wrongful incarceration of Leonard Peltier.

After more than 30 years, the U.S. Government still won't recognize nor correct the wrongs of the past. Therefore, again this year, the Lakota People of Oglala organized another Commemoration last June 26th under the theme "Let the Great Healing Begin" to remember the people who died during the Reign of Terror and to call for the release of Leonard Peltier. The community uses traditional ways such as prayers, ceremonies and conferences with youth and elders to heal the sacred hoop. Truth, justice and reconciliation are needed between Indigenous Peoples and States around the world.

We should all together be able to heal the transgressions of the past and to find a way to put an end to the injustices historically perpetrated on Indigenous peoples. We feel that wounds and scars of our peoples will heal one day. We are led to believe that most issues in our struggle to survive encourage forms of alternative justice and traditional, as well as contemporary ways of conflict resolution.

Mr. Chairperson, as it is mentioned on last years' report (E/CN.4/sub.2/2004) paragraph 40: "Serious consideration should be given to arbitration as a means of conflict resolutions." Therefore our organization would like to renew our call for the creation of an international mechanism with the mandate to act as an impartial third parties to help establish dialogue between States and Indigenous peoples for peaceful resolution. This mechanism would have been very important this year during several conflicts involving indigenous peoples (in Osweken/Six Nations in Canada, in the community of Atenco or in Chiapas-Mexico, in indigenous lands in Colombia or in Kanaky). We would like also to have a thought for the Bedouin peoples and all civilians suffering in Palestine and Lebanon.

We need to find ways to help us survive these difficult times. Therefore we are grateful that this Working Group has initiated this very important debate on indigenous peoples and conflict resolution. This shows the importance of the work of this Working Group because it gives an opportunity to us indigenous peoples to present the development of our fundamental rights and to the United Nations to act at a different level by standard setting and independent review. We hope that all together we will find solutions for a world of peace, justice and equality. Leonard Peltier Defense Committee

The Freedom Archives
522 Valencia Street
San Francisco, CA 94110
(415) 863-9977
www.freedomarchives.org

Freedom For Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald

In 1969, Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald was a member of Southern California Chapter of the Black Panther Party that was targeted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for its political activities. Fitzgerald, a dedicated cadre, who educated his community though his work selling and circulating the Black Panther News Service, has been locked up for almost 38 years. The State of California continues to violate the law, i.e. penal code 1170.2 (b).

Today, Chip is the longest held Black Panther political prisoner in the United States prison system. He has had a stroke and major back surgery. He is disabled. He has a slight paralysis on his left side and walks with a cane.

Mel Mason, President of the Monterey Peninsula NAACP, which advocates on Chip's behalf, said, "Chip had a stroke and major back surgery…this is absolutely political….The rule of law states that people sentenced to 'Life with Parole' must be given a release date. If he was anyone else, he'd have been out a long time ago. He should have never been incarcerated, and he meets the requirements for release."

Chip is from Compton, California. The letter on this page was written by Compton City Councilperson, Barbara Calhoun. She mailed it to State Board of Prison Terms Chairperson, Margarita Perez. Chip's next hearing before the Board of Prison Terms is likely to occur in early 2007.

Please write to Ms. Perez and demand that the Board of Prison Terms recommend Chip's immediate release.

Please mail the following letter by Council Person Barbara Calhoun's to the CA Board of Prison Terms and ask others to sign it to add their voice to this just demand for Chip's release.

Address letters to:
Ms. Margarita Perez Chair Person
California Board of Prison Terms
1515 K. Street, Suite 60
Sacramento, CA 95814

Thank You for your support
Family and Friends of Chip
(831) 392-2869

BARBARA J. CALHOUN
Councilwoman District 1

(310) 605-5534
Fax. (310) 761-1427

City of Compton
OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL

June 5, 2006

Ms. Margarita Perez
Chair Person
CA Board of Prison Terms
1515 K. Street, Ste. 600
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chair Person Perez:

This correspondence is in regard to a Compton, CA born resident, Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald. In 1969, Mr. Fitzgerald, a member of the Southern CA Black Panther Party, was charged and convicted of murder (a crime he denies committing to this day) and received a sentence of death by the California State Supreme Court, which was automatically appealed. It was during this time in February of 1972 that the death penalty was considered unconstitutional. Therefore, Mr. Fitzgerald's original sentence of death was commuted to 7years to life with the possibility of parole. When Mr. Fitzgerald's original sentence was overturned he had already served half the minimum and it was at this time that he became eligible for parole in 1976. Some 30 years later Mr. Fitzgerald sits in prison having been repeatedly denied parole in spite of his exceptional behavior during his incarceration.

Mr. Fitzgerald's prison records reflect that he has conducted himself as a model prisoner; there are no acts of criminal and/or violent behavior. Mr. Fitzgerald has been incarcerated for 36 years; this means he has spent more time locked up than he has free on the streets. In addition, since his incarceration, Mr. Fitzgerald suffered a stroke and has had major back surgery, which has left him partially paralyzed requiring him to walk with a cane for the rest of his life.

At this time we appeal to you to release Mr. Fitzgerald on parole. As Councilperson for the first District of the city of Compton, I assure you that Mr. Fitzgerald has a vast network in this city that will embrace, support, protect and guide him upon his release and for years thereafter. We shall assist in every way to provide this fine gentleman with employment, housing and health care. It is our intention to provide a support system that will assure his positive and smooth re-entry into society.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Barbara Calhoun

Council Person Barbara J. Calhoun

COMPTON CITY HALL
205 South Willowbrook Avenue Compton, California 90220

We Demand the immediate release of Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald

Name (write): _____	**Name (write):** _____
Address: _____	**Address:** _____
Name (write): _____	**Name (write):** _____
Address: _____	**Address:** _____
Name (write): _____	**Name (write):** _____
Address: _____	**Address:** _____
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Name (write): _____	**Name (write):** _____
Address: _____	**Address:** _____
Name (write): _____	**Name (write):** _____
Address: _____	**Address:** _____

CCBPP NEEDS YOU!

VOLUNTEERS CALENDAR

SUNDAY

10am- 2 pm	Outreach
3:30 pm-5:30	Volunteer class
7-10pm	Volunteers Phone Training

MONDAY

10am-3pm	Speaking engagment phoning
6-7pm	Volunteer Orientation
6-10pm	Volunteers Phone Training
7-10pm	Publication Workshop

TUESDAY

10am-3pm	Commemorator Sponsor phoning
1-5pm	Mailout

WEDNESDAY

10am-3pm	Outreach
1-5pm	Mailout
6-7pm	Volunteer Orientation
7-10pm	Volunteers Phone Training

THURSDAY

3-7pm	Outreach
6-7pm	Volunteer Orientation
6-10pm	Volunteers Phone Training
7-10pm	Publication Workshop

FRIDAY

1-3pm	Mailout
3-7pm	Informational Table

SATURDAY

10-11am	Volunteer Orientation
11am-3pm	Publication Workshop
3-4pm	CCBPP Staff Meeting

Call CCBPP Volunteers Coordinator Charles DuBois, at 510-652-7170

Commmunications with political prisoners

Greetings. I just spoke with Jalil and he notified me that Herman Bell 79C-0262 has been moved to Sullivan Correctional Facility.

Jalil also wanted me to thank every one that wrote a letter for his parole hearing and he will be putting out his response early next week. You will be able to find it at www.freejalil.com. Here is Herman's new address.

Thanks for all your work...

Dare to Struggle, Dare to Win
Paulette NYCJericho

Herman Bell 79C-0262
Sullivan Correctional Facility
Box 116, Riverside Drive
Fallsburg, New York 12733-0116
(845) 434-2080 (Sullivan County)
Free All Political Prisoners!
nycjericho@riseup.net • www.jerichony.org

40th Anniversary Reunion of the Black Panther Party

Editor's note: *Kiilu Nyasha is a regular contributor to* The Commemorator, *a commentator on local San Francisco and Berkeley radio stations; and a writer for San Francisco Bay View on the topics of political prisoners, poverty, police repression, attacks on the working class and the war in Iraq and the Middle East. She regularly corresponds with Mumia, Ruchell McGee, Hugo Pinell and other political prisoners inside the United States. For the BPP 40th Anniversary she agreed to host a workshop on Political Prisoners in the United States.*

By Kiilu Nyasha

Courtesy of Kiilu Nyasha

Former BPP members, Kiilu Nyasha and activist Malik Rahim from New Orleans. will lead workshops at BPP 40th Anniversary.

In October 2006, Panthers from all over the globe will gather in Oakland to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense in October, 1966.

The BPP organized free breakfasts for children, free health clinics and clothing drives, alternative schools, rent strikes and other protests; published a community newspaper, warred against rogue cops and drug dealers, struggled for the release of captured comrades and buried their martyrs.

As stated by Huey P. Newton in 1970 in *Revolutionary Suicide*, "The Black Panther Party stands for revolutionary solidarity with all people fighting against the forces of imperialism, capitalism, racism and fascism. Our solidarity is extended to those people who are fighting these evils at home and abroad. Because we understand that our struggle for our liberation is part of a worldwide struggle being waged by the poor and oppressed against imperialism and the world's chief imperialist, the United States of America."

The BPP's Ten-Point Platform and Program demanded freedom and self-determination, an end to police brutality and murder, "land, bread, housing, education, clothing, justice and peace," etc. At the end of the Platform were two long paragraphs quoted from the Declaration of Independence. Here's an edited excerpt: "...deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed ...whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends [*life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness*], it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government....[W]hen a long train of abuses and usurpations... evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security."

Given today's harsh realities, the need to organize a revolutionary party and "throw off such government" is greater than ever.

Today's social and environmental problems are ten times worse than they were 30-40 years ago. Lack of health care, education and employment, homelessness, hunger and destitution, unjust wars, massive incarceration, the proliferation of drugs and guns, has resulted in the destruction of our families and communities, creating social isolation, alienation, drug addiction, child and spousal abuse and violence turned inward.

The Party's international liberation ideology, its expansion beyond our borders, and its alliances with other revolutionary groups prompted the FBI to label it the "greatest threat to the internal security of the United States," targeting it for "neutralization."

Victim of the FBI's notorious COINTELPRO that used every "dirty trick" in the book to destroy it, as well as its youthful lack of experience, the Party was over by the end of the 1970s. Nevertheless, its impact upon the Black community, the nation and the world was immeasurable.

This anniversary reunion should provide participants with an opportunity to discuss ways in which we can unite our OGs (original gangstas), elders, and young people of various communities to organize a true people's party serving the needs of *all* our people suffering under this fascist police state.

Former Panther, Malik Rahim, co-founded the Common Ground Collective in New Orleans to deal with the horrendous aftermath of Hurricane Katrina *Panther style*. They are doing tremendous work serving the people of that ravaged city.

Bobby Seale

Continued from page 3

Black Panther Party for Self-Defense?" "Right on time," was my response.

Our uniform came about because one day, out in front of Merritt College, Huey happened to be dressed in a sports-style leather jacket, black slacks and a blue shirt. I stepped back, like a movie director I peered through my squared hands, looked at him from different angles in the nice California sunshine, and said, "Hey, Huey, hold it! That should be our uniform, just the way you're dressed right now, with the black shoes nice and shiny." The next evening, we were watching an old movie about the French underground resistance to Hitler's occupation. The characters in the film were wearing berets. I said, "Huey, let's wear berets, man." The uniform was an important part of our image. Huey and I understood that good visuals were all part of how we could successfully communicate and capture the imagination of the people.

At this time my concept of Black unity was rooted in the idea that black community unity must be a catalyst to help humanize the world. To me that humanization would ultimately end the racist exploitation and oppression of all peoples. These ideas were the basis of our BPP's slogan, "All Power to All the People." Without even knowing the term then, we wanted to rise above xenophobic black nationalism. The concept of all peoples' power was the foundation of our policy of coalition politics — an organization that crossed all racial, ethnic and organizational lines. Learning to know the difference between our friends and the real enemies. We would work with anyone who was positive and dedicated to the human liberation plight.

Ultimately, over the years, we worked with dozens of organizations, not only young, white, leftist groups and middle-of-the-road liberal groups, but especially the American Indian Movement (AIM), young Hispanic groups like the Puerto Rican Young Lords Party, and the Brown Berets, young Chicano/Mexican-American brothers and sisters, along with youthful Asian Japanese [Richard Aoki was the first Asian BPP member] and Chinese organizations such as the Red Guard in San Francisco. We evolved working coalitions with more than 30-odd different organizations including Dr. Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC) Poor People's March.

Courtesy of BPP Archive

Bobby Seale and Huey P. Newton, founders of the Black Panther Party, 1966

Our message was not always understood by mainstream America — this was especially true of our decision to arm ourselves. In 1965, [a year before our BPP began] there was a group in Los Angeles called Community Alert Patrol (CAP) who, in the aftermath of the Watts Riots, began to observe the police, with law books and tape recorders in hand. After a few weeks of observing, they were beaten and locked up by the LA police. Huey and I read about this in January of 1966 while Huey was studying law. Huey had discovered a California State Supreme Court ruling stating that a citizen had a right to observe police officers while they stand at a reasonable distance away.

When we began our police patrols it was clear, because of the CAP example, and in light of the ongoing brutalization of peaceful protesters, that carrying legal guns would be necessary. To the media, and especially racist politicians the very idea that we had guns was reprehensible, but in fact, our guns were dead legal: mainly, because our guns were not concealed and we didn't go around pointing them. Huey had always made the point that it was illegal to do so. After patrolling the police for about six months, we had

Continued on page 19

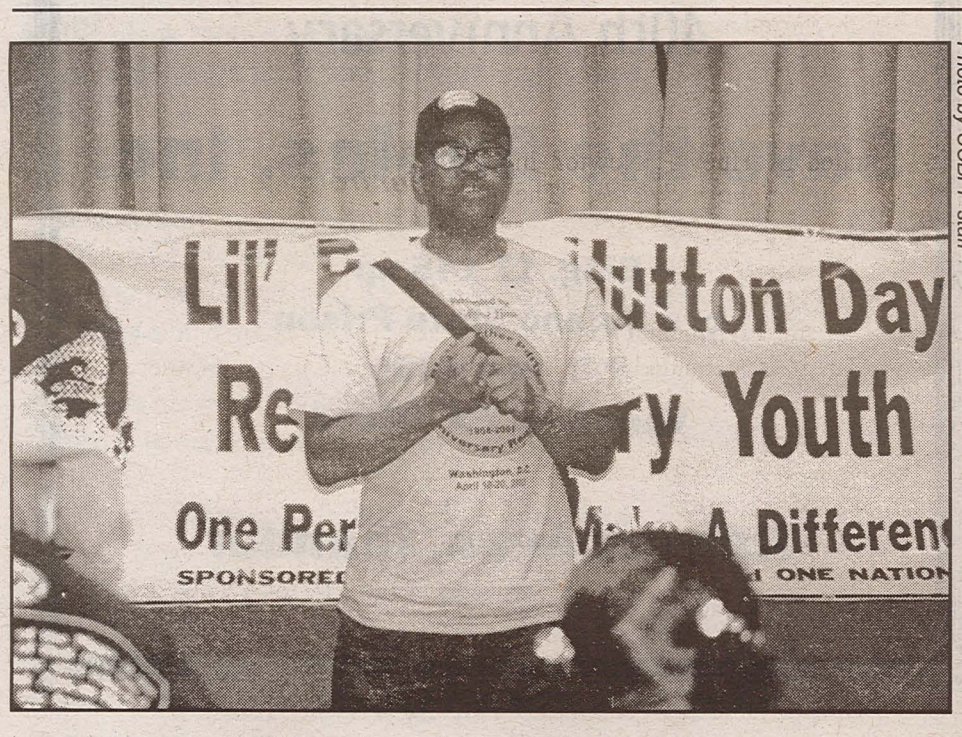

Photo by CCBPP staff

William Jennings (Billy X) at Li'l' Bobby Hutton Day at the West Oakland library. BJ joined the BPP in 1968, in Sacramento, CA.

Photo by CCBPP staff

Former BPP member Saundra Williams (right) with daughter, Maisha Williams, joined the party in Oakland, CA 1967. Today, Saundra and Maisha are business partners of Intersage, as professional massage therapists.

Former BPP Members Weigh In

Continued from page 3

the mid-70s. She also organized the first BPP free breakfast program in Oakland. She recently passed her 100th Birthday and CCBPP celebrated that milestone at the April 16 Open House for CCBPP's newly renovated office.

"There is chaos and confusion everywhere... We would need to organize the people to change this.

"Today's young people need an organization to pay attention to youth; the families need to become more involved in the lives of their children. During the days of the Black Panther Party, the families in the community were excited because they could see the Ten-Point Program of the Panthers operating in the community. There were breakfast programs, and programs for the people in prison and others to help with the problems.

"I was the organizer of the Seniors Alliance and the SAFE escort program for the seniors. We took the people to services like doctor's appointments, and other places they needed transportation to in order to take care of their business.

"Huey often told people I was his mother and this was a joke between us. I enjoyed working with the Panthers and believe it was an exciting time back then. We need an organization."

William Jennings (Billy X) *former BPP organizer, founder and lead organizer of* It's About Time: Black Panther Party *that has sponsored BPP photo exhibits, and regular commemorative celebrations over the last decade, since 1995.*

"The goals and aspirations of the Ten-Point Program are still relevant today. We want freedom today. We still have no control in our communities. The issues with the police, education, housing, economics, politics and others continue to be bad if not worse than they were during the time of the Black Panther Party activism. Capitalism continues to exploit us. Community organizing is key to the problems that Black people and poor people face.

"The growth and development of any new political movement must also go along with the correct social and cultural development. This helps give our community, especially young people, clear values and a context for dealing with their lives.

"There is also a need for unity between groups organizing in the community and the churches are important to the success of the movement for freedom and equality."

Saundra Williams *was born in Oakland, joined the BPP in 1967, and is active in her community volunteering with various health programs that address problems that often affect poor people, such as nutrition and physical therapy.*

"Today, people seem to have no sense of community. The brotherhood, the sisterhood is missing. Back then, many of us lived in predominantly black ghettoes, like brothers and sisters…and a lot of people were concerned about the war in Vietnam that devastated many lives, not to mention the economic cost of the war. People had strong opinions and felt that they could make change. Today

Continued on page 24

On behalf of the Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party, we want to thank the following volunteers, people, organizations, and businesses, for your support, in honor of BPP 40th Anniversary:

Africa City Alive
Black Oak's Books
Buffalo Soldier & the Berkeley Flea Market
Sister Carole & Women's Employment Resource Center
Bobby Coleman
Emory Douglas
Charles DuBois
Everett & Jones Barbeque
Food Not Bombs
David Hilliard
Elizabeth Hope
Nia Imara
Perlie Jacobs
Constance James
William (Billy X) Jennings & ITS ABOUT TIME
Raymond Joe
Ruth Villa (Jones)
Ali King (LV)
Marlene & Geoff Krohn
Marlynn Mackey & Save the Babies, Inc.
James Mattson
Henry Mitchell
Kiilu Nyasha
Opal Pound
Dr. Tolbert Small and The Harriet Tubman Clinic
Clarence Thomas & ILWU/Local 10
***Greg Tomeoni* & Copy Central**
San Francisco Act Up
The Trading Post
Bobby Seale
Pamela Thomas
Shanrika Turner
Jacky Waks

Huey's Corner

Continued from page 5

Federal law…" and that "BPP members [were] followed and arrested for violations of 'local Motor Vehicle Code laws'." [Book III; Final Report, pp. 220-221.] Undoubtedly, one purpose of these raids, arrests, and prosecutions of BPP members was to force the Party to deplete its limited financial resources on bail and lawyers. As a former federal prosecutor observed: "Viewed from one perspective, the Panther 21 case [N.Y.] might be seen as a victory for the prosecution in spite of the acquittals … Almost all of the money and energy of the Panthers in New York was diverted to the defense of this one case. The stress which this case, together with other serious criminal cases, put on the Party across the country, exacerbated internal conflicts… If the point of the Panther 21 trial was to help destroy the Party, then the prosecution must be judged a success.

Judged by other proper standards though, the prosecution failed. It failed . . . as a symbol of justice — as a symbol of what the criminal justice system should be." [Peter L. Zimroth, Perversions of Justice: The Prosecution and Acquittal of the Panthers (New York: Viking Press, 1974, pp. 397-398)].

152 Hersh, Seymour: *New York Times,* March 17, 1968, p. A16.

153 Affidavit of Robert A. Barteaux, Chief, Information Processing Group, Information Services Staff, Directorate for Operations, CIA, July 5, 1977, filed in Black Panther Party v. Levi, No. 76-2205.

154 Affidavit of Sidney D. Stembridge, Deputy Director of the Office of Security of the CIA, July 5, 1977, filed in Black Panther Party v. Levi. No. 76-2205.

155 Hersh, Seymour: *New York Times,* March 17, 1968, p. A16.

156 Ibid.

157 Ibid. Indeed, all three domestic security operations identified by Senate investigators appear to have focused on the Panthers. "Project MERRIMAC [1967 to 1973] involved the infiltration by CIA agents of… Black activist groups… Project RESISTANCE [1967 to 1973] was a broad effort to obtain general background information" about radical groups across the country. In 1969, upon the recommendation of the official in charge of the CIA's CHAOS Program, the FBI began submitting "names of domestic political radicals and Black militants" to the CIA for inclusion on its mail opening "Watch List." [Book III: Final Report, pp. 682, 573]

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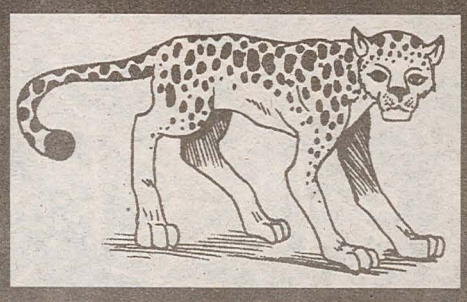

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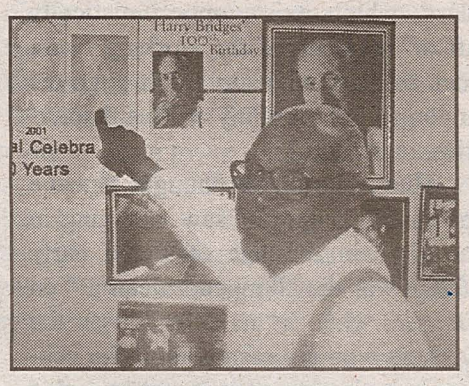
African American Longshore Coalition Conference Held at San Francisco Local 10 Union Hall

(Left to right) Leo Robinson, retired ILWU local 10 member, Chris Silver, President of the Teamster Black National Caucus, Clarence Thomas and Trent Willis,co-founders Million Worker March Movement.

(Left to right) Sisters Patricia Gillette of Chicago, with sister Mary James of Lywood, IL and sister Laurie Lee from Sanford, FL took part in the day of honor at Local 10 union hall.

Jack Rasmus commented on the the corruption on the U.S. military industry complex.



Joe (Papa Joe) Mosley, 1st African American Chief Dispatcher.

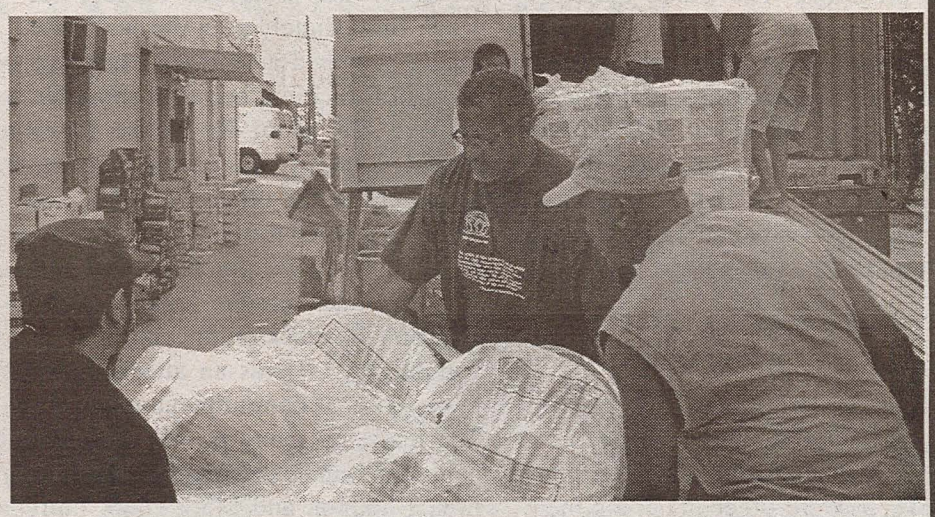
Starting on August 18, on Friday night "Joining of Hands" a reception for the Teamster National Black Caucus, who also led in the Katrina relief effort, was hosted by Local 10 and co-sponsored by local ILWU chapters from Portland, Tacoma and Seattle.

But on Friday night, members from the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, and some 400 TNBC delegates enjoyed the food, music, conversation, and dancing that flowed through the evening.

Then on Saturday, the next 2 days, The African American Longshore Coalition Conference (AALC) held its conference and addressed issues, such as working conditions and the imperialist war in the middle east. It consisted of approximately over 300 attendees ranging from members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) up and down the coast.

During the Friday evening reception, Chris Silver, the President of the TBNC, and Leo Robinson, retiree of ILWU Local 10, spoke to the importance of building solidarity with workers, and Robinson spoke on the origin of the AALC and the solid structure that has been in place since 1964. Then on Sunday, Sister Deborah Stringfellow, Executive Secretary and officer of the AALC spoke on "Black Women on the Waterfront" or the lack thereof.

Puget Sound Coalition Aids in Relief Reconstruction-Return



The Puget Sound Katrina Relief and Reconstruction Committee (PSKRCC) is a coalition of unions and community groups established after the Gulf Coast devastation left by Hurricane Katrina. PSKRRC is a part of a nationwide network that has been formed to support relief efforts and political organizing led by Louisiana based Community Labor United (CLU). The CLU network has responded to the crisis Katrina by launching the People's Hurricane Relief Fund and Oversight Coalition to ensure hurricane survivors aren't stripped of their homes, land, jobs and rights by the Bush administration rebuilding process, This effort by the labor movement and its allies is rapidly gaining recognition and momentum nationally. The joint effort is demanding:

* The right to return for all displaced people;

* People's participation in all aspect of the reconstruction process;

*Affordable housing, living wage jobs, quality healthcare and education; and

Justice for people neglected or abused by the government

In Seattle, dockworkers form the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) African American Longshore Coalition (AALC), Million Workers March Movement with members of ILWU Local 19 and 52 have joined forces with the CLU, ILA Longshoremen's Local 3033 in Baton Rouge, the Martin Luther King Jr. County Labor Council and the Port of Seattle to set up the BURT Nelson Memorial Katrina Relief Warehouse Unions like the Teamsters Local 174, Teachers' Union and other unions not yet to named, have contributed supplies and labor. The warehouse space is named after a Seattle longshoreman who organized solidarity with African-American Longshore workers to fight racism and corruption on the New Orleans waterfront during the 1930's

In the spirit of the Million Worker March, we are mobilizing in our own name. We're working as a grassroots labor to labor, community to community effort to directly aid other working class people and help build an independent national movement to compel government officials and politicians to meet the needs of people most impacted by Katrina. The PSKRRC raised over $10,000 in donations that was used in shipping expenses and other operation costs of 2 containers full of building supplies to help with the reconstruction. In one container, it is estimated to be $19,000 in donated materials and close to $50,000 in the other.

ILWU Local 19 members donated $11,000 dollars in the form of a Lows account to Mama D, who is a local activist of New Orleans working to rebuild her community. Also, the ILWU Coast Committee donated $3,261 to help in the shipment of the container; the PSKRRC contributed $4,478 of the donated money raised.

There were unions like Teamster 174 that donated $1500 in materials and Teachers' Union donated $500 dollars in materials. True Value Hardware donated hundreds of dollars in material and supplies from three of their stores. There were rank and file members who donated tools and money. Shoreline Community College donated one generator and other building supplies. Community organizations like LELO and FSP are part of the PSKRRC and they have played major roles in the public relation, organizing and fund raising. There were black community organizations like Women for Police Accountability, Paul Robeson Peace and Justice, and A. Phillip Randolph Institute (APRI) and others who were very much involved and still are working with others in the ongoing relief effort.

In the end, the business agent for ILWU Local 52 was unable to negotiate the railroad donating transportation services. It is quite shameful when large national companies refuse to help those in need. Sometimes we have to ask ourselves have we done all that we can or just the bare minimum to look good while those in need continue to be neglected and forgotten.

It only takes each person involved to be a humanitarian to achieve the goal of the people of New Orleans – RELIEF-RECONSTRUCTION-RETURN!

Written by
Gabriel Prawl, ILWU/AALC
September 15, 2006

BPP 40th Anniversary

Continued from page 11

member of CCBPP's Board of Directors, ran one of the Party's sickle cell programs. The Party leadership understood the class and economic nature of the struggle against racial oppression and strengthened that understanding over time. Thus, the Ten-Point Program of the Party aimed the struggle at material improvements that exposed fundamental contradictions between the government and the people.

The meaning of the Ten-Point Program

The Ten-Point Program became the constitution of the Party; all members had to study it and learn it verbatim.

There were other materials members had to study, such as the experience of the Chinese revolution, Frantz Fanon and the Algerian Revolution, speeches of Fidel Castro and writings of Che Guevara in Cuba, as well as the experience of Black people in America through W.E.B. Dubois, the life of Malcolm X and others. But the Ten-Point Program was the main guideline for our daily practice.

In understanding its relevance today, we must remember what Huey and Bobby used to emphasize, that Point Number 7 (the demand to end police brutality and murdering of Black people and all oppressed people) is only one point out of the ten. In fact, as bad as police brutality is today, more people die in the U.S. today from a lack of health care and food than by the guns of the police. So the emphasis on armed self-defense by the Black Panther Party was a defensive tactical move to begin mobilizing the masses to fight for fundamental change, away from enticement and lies of co-optation and reform that were becoming very popular in the volatile Black community back then, especially among cultural nationalist organizations.

On December 3, 1969, Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were murdered, in their sleep, by the Chicago police, decimating the leadership of the Chicago Panther Chapter. The reality of what the BPP was up against came home, that the government would go to any length to wipe it out. Thereafter, the BPP was on the defensive and lost the forward motion that it had once owned.

The birth of CCBPP and *The Commemorator* as an organizing tool after Huey's Death

Huey was killed on August 22, 1989. Immediately after his death, the media launched a renewed campaign of misinformation, not only about Dr. Newton but about the entire Black Panther Party. It was at this time that I, along with other founders of CCBPP, took up the challenge. As former members we put forth that this was an attack on the legacy of the BPP and an attack on the entire Black community. It was an attack on all those years of commitment and sacrifice made by many people who had paid the ultimate price, people such as Fred Hampton and Mark Clark murdered in Chicago, Alprentice "Bunchy" Carter who was murdered by FBI agents in Los Angeles and "Li'l Bobby" Hutton, murdered by policemen in Oakland. It was an attack on people who are still incarcerated on trumped-up charges, such as Mumia Abu-Jamal and Ruchell Magee, and lesser-known brothers and sisters who are still locked up in U.S. prisons for their political beliefs, and on those who are in political exile, such as Assata Shakur.

So *The Commemorator* began as a voice for the truth, to organize off of this attack on the legacy of the Party. We began publishing the paper in 1990, one year after Huey's death, commemorating his life and the contributions of the Black Panther Party by holding a Commemoration Unity Rally on the first anniversary of Huey's death. Through the rally, we were able to collectivize enough support and resources to begin the paper.

Huey's understanding of the world

Huey understood that the fundamental contradiction in society is between the exploiting ruling class and the exploited working class of the world. The fight is over power, i.e., control of wealth and labor, and the race card is used like a joker (the wild card) by those in power, to maintain their power. In 1970, Huey wrote an essay called "Black Capitalism Re-analyzed." He was trying to move the Party away from alienating small Black businesses in the community from the Party. At the time there were Party members who were very dogmatic in their thinking, denouncing local small business as the enemy. Huey explained that we had to organize the small businesses because they are victimized too, by the same economic forces that victimize poor people.

Huey pointed out a method to transform small businesses from objects of the system of international capitalism to subjects of history through identifying with the Black oppressed community and donating on a regular basis to the survival programs organized by the Black Panther Party. Through this process the small businesses are transformed from being an appendage of international capitalism to a vital part of the oppressed community, fighting in its own historic self-interest.

Huey understood, on a fundamental level, what politicizes the masses: not ideology or theory per se, but meeting their day-to-day needs, which advances them through a process. He often explained that people do not move from A to Z, but from A to B, or A to C.

By the early 1970s, the direction of economic development in the U.S. was shifting from a manufacturing-based economy to a service-based economy, although it was barely discernible at that point in time. Huey saw the leaps of technology and automation and he mistakenly identified the low-income strata in the U.S. as being the same as the lumpen proletariat — a class disassociated from production, poor but not a working class, which exists opportunistically off of the labor of the working class, such as those who survive through the underground economy or illegal activities, or students.

Huey mistakenly thought that the increased poverty he saw emerging in the U.S. in the late 60's and early 1970's was the "lumpenproletariat" on the rise, when in actuality it was the workers who are members of the economic underclass that is not included under our nation's labor laws — those who are super-exploited, with the largest percentage of profits taken from their labor, such as part-time and temporary workers, or low-paid service workers with no job benefits.

Today, the majority of Blacks, minorities and the working class are service workers who do not share in the dubious benefits and protections of the federal labor laws, because the National Labor Relations Act does not "recognize" them. Temporary and part-time workers, workfare workers, independently contracted workers, farm workers, workers in enterprise zones, and prisoners employed in prison industries are all "unrecognized" workers and now represent the majority of the U.S. work force — over 100 million people.

Today, "unrecognized" workers are the fastest growing stratum in the country, due to downsizing and so-called "Trickle-down" economic policies domestically which, along with imperialist-installed manufacturing abroad, have started stripping away and taking back the bribe given to organized labor in the U.S. following WWII.

Many in the Black Panther Party did not foresee this in the 1960s. The country still had a strong manufacturing base and this was before international corporate interests, using modern transportation and telecommunications, so completely relocated manufacturing out of the highly industrialized nations where trade unions had raised wages to the highest levels. It was before the relocated jobs into developing nations where they could train and exploit cheaper labor, while breaking the unions at home.

The BPP arose in a different era of capitalism, the waning of industrial capitalism as we know it in this nation. Huey Newton put forth the theory he called "intercommunalism" back in 1970 in a speech at Boston College, in which he called for the necessity for workers and exploited peoples to organize across national borders, just as the other side of international monopoly capital had done to serve their own interests. Newton pointed to that international context and the need for political and economic power to place resources into the hands of the people to be able to realize the Ten Point Program, while many Panthers remained focused on local oppressive symptoms of the problem.

Moving into the 21st Century

We need to organize from the bottom of the socioeconomic ladder where Blacks are "last hired, first fired." The only factor of production that labor and the poor own is labor power. Labor organization that unites the "unrecognized" worker with the dwindling number of union workers as well as with small business owners is central to any improvement in income, benefits, working and living conditions. This is also why current ruling class exploitative efforts are aimed at using racial division to prevent multi-racial labor organization from being unified. If their race card tactic works, inner-city minorities are used at lower wages through government "job training" or workfare programs or prison labor or Enterprise Zones to compete for jobs held originally by recognized workers, predominantly whites. The race card has historically divided Blacks against Asians, Arabs, Latinos and whites over ownership of micro-businesses, which represent the crumbs of monopoly capitalism.

The principle of class-based labor organizing surfaces as the only feasible means of improving income, benefits and working conditions and also as means of using economic power for social and political gain.

The Commemorator as voice of poor and oppressed communities

The ruling class elevates the race struggle above class struggle through opportunist media coverage of situations such as the Rodney King, Reginald Denny, and L.A. protests affair in 1992; the "Million Man March," the current wave of hysteria against Hispanic immigrants from South and Central America, etc., in order to guarantee that race, instead of economic class analysis, is seen as the number one issue in America.

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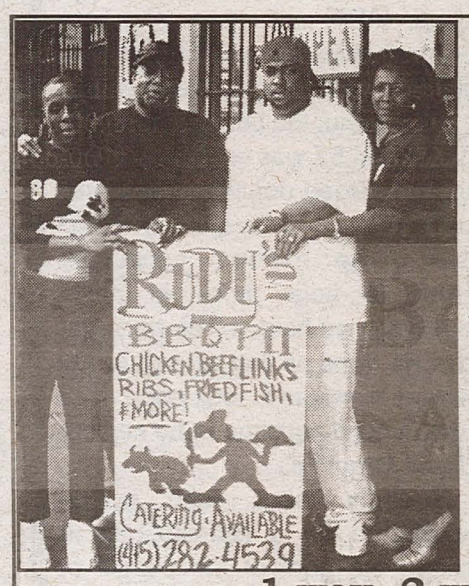

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Bobby Seale

Continued from page 15

had arguments, edgy standoffs, but nothing like a shootout. Later that year, though, a state assemblyman, Don Mulford, introduced a bill to stop citizens from carry loaded weapons inside city limits, nor could anyone have a loaded weapon within 150 feet of public property, which included all roadways and byways. This, in effect, prevented us from legal armed patrols of the police. California politicians literally "criminalized" that legal right.

In protest against this bill, on May 2, 1967, I led a group of armed Panthers to the state capitol. We entered the California State Legislature, and I read Executive Mandate Number One, a Black Panther Party statement written by myself, Huey and Eldridge Cleaver, denouncing the pending Mulford Act. It so happened that Ronald Reagan, the governor of California at that time, was out on the front lawn when we arrived. Reagan was to the right of us on the lawn, speaking to a couple of hundred youth, children aged about ten to fourteen. The kids left him and followed us, black guys dressed in uniforms and armed with guns. They thought we were a gun club. They must have been bored with Ronald Reagan. The Mulford Act was passed in late May 1967.

Our march on the capitol brought us a huge amount of media attention and international notoriety. We welcomed the attention, but we wanted the focus to be on our Ten-Point Platform and Program, which the media tended to ignore, instead characterizing us as gun-totin', militant black radicals. Over the years with the aid of the FBI's COINTELPRO, the media continually distorted facts, saying that we had instigated shootouts with the police when, in fact, as we now know from Freedom of Information Act documents, the FBI worked with police departments to plan attacks on Black Panther Party offices.

By the end of 1969, they had attacked our offices all across the country, and Fred Hampton, Mark Clark, Bunchy Carter and John Huggins had all been killed. Many chapters and branches had been attacked. In 1970, a young white Berkeley policeman who knew that the FBI and Berkeley police had been planning for months to attack our Berkeley headquarters stole their plans and gave them to our lawyer, Charles R. Garry. These plans detailed how they planned to come in with SWAT teams, and that they expected there to be 15 to 20 dead Black Panthers when they left. In the previous year (1969), every BPP office was attacked at least once and Chicago was attacked three times. It took a U.S. Senate investigation of the FBI's "…concerted attempt to smash the Black Panther Party…" to stop the FBI and local police from planning and carrying out attacks on our houses and homes.

We were feeding 250,000 kids five days a week each morning before school. We had no government money or War on Poverty money to start the programs—we did it ourselves with donations.

Now, in 2006, on the occasion of our 40th Anniversary, I would say that besides our resistance and our ability to weather everything that was thrown at us, with some 28 dead party members, one of the party's important lasting legacies is grassroots programmatic organizing, such as the Free Breakfast for Children Program, which evolved to the point where, through 49 Black Panther chapters and branches, and in association with many other organizations across the United States, we were feeding 250,000 kids five days a week each morning before school. We had no government money or War on Poverty money to start the programs — we did it ourselves with donations. We ran ads in our newspaper appealing to proprietors to donate food and we boycotted those, like Safeway, who refused.

We went to Hollywood and to Abby Mann, George Sanford Brown, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, Sammy Davis Jr., Jane Fonda, Burt Snider, Mark Rosenberg and Paula Weinstein and her mother, Hanna Weinstein, along with my friends Marlon Brando and James Baldwin and a host of others like Danny Glover, Donald Sutherland, Carol and especially Congressman Ronald V. Dellums, now the Mayor-elect of Oakland, California.

To me, advocating for social change is not just about speaking at a podium or on a bullhorn, but about inspiring party members and other community people with relevant activity

To me, advocating for social change is not just about speaking at a podium or on a bullhorn, but about inspiring party members and other community people with relevant activity. Getting up early in the morning, knocking on doors, and registering people to vote, organizing rallies, assembling people in communities across America to volunteer—this was what got the Panther social programs going.

In a five, near six-year period, our free preventative medical health clinics tested over one million black folks for sickle cell anemia for the first time in U.S. history. The electoral campaigns that we ran were interconnected with these programs. Later, when we visited homes while registering voters, people who had never voted before, or didn't relate to voting, would invite us in and sign up because they had visited our free health clinics. Real, tangible service moved beyond the reach of speeches, as people actually came to know us and care when Panthers went to trial or to jail.

Our Black Panther Party's 40th anniversary founding and the photographs in the new book of photography, *The Black Panthers*, by my friend Stephen Shames, evoke many of my old, tough-times memories of a hard struggle when the Black Panther Party organized many grassroots programs and advocated the right of self-defense from racist attacks for our black community, beginning in Oakland, California in 1966. These images touch upon the party's nationwide Free Breakfast for School Children program, preventative medical health care clinics, many of our major courtroom trials across the USA, many rallies and the aftermath of the shootouts that occurred in defense of ourselves and our peoples' struggle for what I call our Constitutional Democratic Civil-Human Rights.

Stephen Shames' involvement with BPP as a photographer is related to this idea of functioning, face-to-face working coalitions. The agreement I had with Stephen was that while he wanted to document our protest movement, I needed him to supply photographs for our weekly newspaper, *The Black Panther*. Stephen also taught photography to some BPP members, most prominently Loren Williams. His photographs were key in capturing the peoples' imagination and further raising their awareness of the party and their consciousness of the issues at stake.

The Black Panther Party? Yes. We were an actual political party—though grassroots in our character, as we pulled off some of the most unorthodox organizing feats, few of which have been repeated since the 1960s. Steve Shames' photographs reveal that our Black Panther Party peoples' revolution was not about violence but about the need to re-evolve political, economic, and social justice empowerment back into the hands of the people: to empower people. Today the results of our work can be seen within the corridors of power. Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Congressman Bobby Rush, along with politicians in several other cities across the United States, are a testament to all the hard work our Black Panther Party did, along with many others, and the contributions that we made to this epic of human involvement in American history.

Toward a Future World of Co-operational Humanism.

Bobby Seale

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- 126 Broadway, Oakland, Ph# (510) 663-2350

CCBPP Board Member Educates High School Students on BPP History

Courtesy of Marlene Krohn

CCBPP board member Marlene Krohn (right front) gives a presentation on the history of the Black Panther Party in Mr. Sloan's (second from left) class at California High School in San Ramon. Marlene is a former BPP volunteer from Philadelphia.

Editor's note: CCBPP board member Marlene Krohn, a former BPP member was invited to make presentations on BPP history at the history classes of Mr. Sloan at California High School in San Ramon. Following are some letters that students sent to Ms. Krohn in appreciation of the work she did to educate students to the history and legacy of the BPP.

Dear Ms. Krohn:

Thank you very much for speaking to our class on Wednesday. I very much enjoyed seeing history through the eyes of someone who lived it. Before you and Mr. Santina came in, the Black Panther Party had a negative connotation in my mind. Somehow I felt that what they did was for a good cause but done by extreme measures. I quickly found out that they were not aggressors, but only wanted protection for their people from corrupt police and government officials. From reading their wants and beliefs I see that most of them were reasonable, taking the historical setting into consideration. I agreed with your beliefs about war and its atrocities. I found it funny that you stated that the United States only helped countries that had something we want. This statement is actually very true, in my eyes, and you made sense when you said that no one is helping Haiti out because Haiti had nothing and nobody wants poverty. Again, thank you for sharing your point of view with all of us.

Respectfully,
Thias Hernandez

****

Dear Mrs. Krohn,

Thank you so much for coming to our class, and teaching us about the Black Panthers. In our history books, the Black Panthers are barely mentioned. And if they are, they are portrayed as dangerous, evil, riotous black person [people] living in Oakland. I never realized that the Black Panthers were just trying to protect themselves from the brutality of the whites. I also never realized how horrible segregation was even in the 60s. You have helped put the Black Panthers in a new light. From dangerous, evil, gun-wielding African Americans to blacks who want to change their way of living, and trying to express their views in a black oppressed society. Although, I do not completely agree with your "no war" viewpoint, I still believe that war is bad. But the United States being the world power that it is, should be the police of the world, and keep world peace. Thank you for coming in and enriching and changing my view of the Black Panthers.

Ben Kim

Letter to the Editor

Save the Babies

Dear Editor,

The time is now upon us to make a call to ARMS. I'm not referring to a battle being waged against our enemies with artillery, but with our minds, spirits, and ethics. Our nation as a whole is defenseless against the continuous onslaught against our youth through the multitude of tactics being implemented by this imperialist government. We must make an honest effort toward ensuring that the participants who will be placed on the frontline, to propel our struggle forward tomorrow, are properly armed with the knowledge of self and victories of yesterday. This can only be done through the painstaking task of our elders reaching out to our youngsters and embedding within them the principles, morals, ethics and conduct, which made us a successful people in the predawn of civilization!

If we continue to refuse our duties of replenishing the well of knowledge, it will eventually dry up and become void of its life-sustaining contents. This is exactly the case concerning our up and coming generations!

How can they possibly be expected to carry on the torch of our fruitful and conducive contributions to humanity if they're viewed as being unsalvageable, and if they are not properly nurtured? It's mathematically impossible – which itself should terrify us to the core of our beings, because we will have successfully allowed those responsible for our oppression and suffering to have altered our pre-determined divine journey into remembrance.

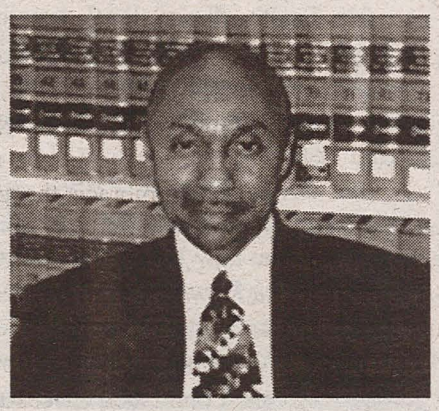
I suggest that our immediate course of action should be to become familiar with those programs, projects and institutions that sincerely cater to the enlightenment, encouragement, guidance and upliftment of our youth and support them 100%. We have to upgrade our stock and invest into our returning to our rightful place as a people with dignity, compassion and Love for self! There's a saying that, "If we knew better, we'd do better." Our greatness as a people is no secret, so what's our next excuse???

Rahsan Amin,
Founder of Save the Babies, Inc.
Bldg. 17 145 up
c/o Solano State Prison,
P.O. BOX 4000
Vacaville, CA 95696

Editor's note: *Since 2004,* Save the Babies *has been providing tutoring and transportation for children of inmates and other low income families, as well as assisting families with basic needs.*

African Diasporic Reparations

Dr. Mustafa Asaria



Resolution adopted by the General Assembly 60/147. Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 3, 2006 Dr. Mustafa Ansari, The Chief Justice of the Indigenous African American Reparations Tribunal and presiding Jurist of the Indigenous African Diasporic Reparations Tribunal, is pleased to present to the Africans in the America and the Diaspora Resolution 60/147. Resolution 60/147 has been signed by the United States and duly passed by the Nations of the World in December of 2005 and distributed on March of 2006. This resolution legally effects and obliges the United States, Spain, France, England, Holland, Sweden, Germany, their corporations and Churches, and the African Dynasties of the Slave Coast to repair and compensate the victims and their heirs for the International Slave Genocide and its resultant discriminatory effects.

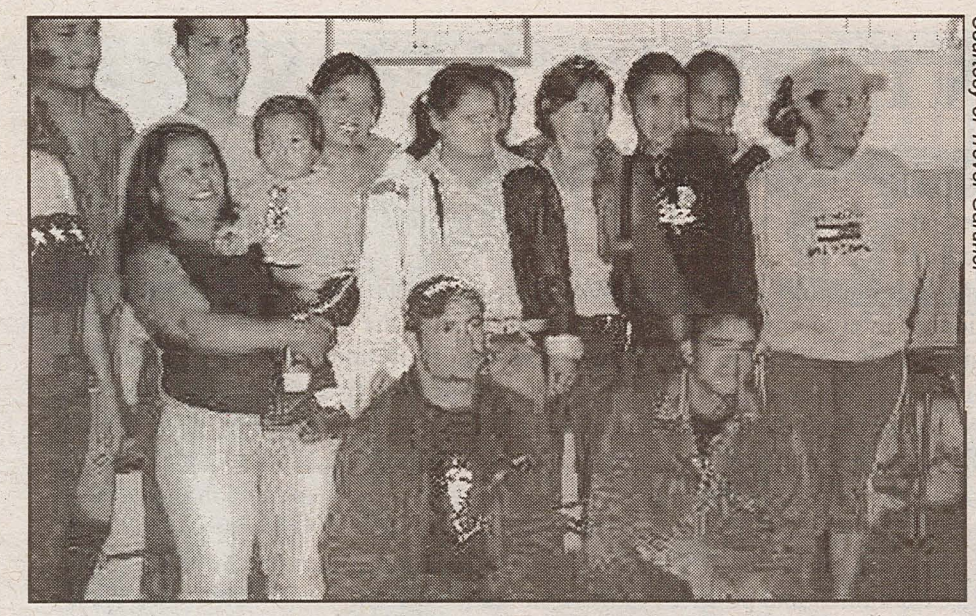
Please note the Indigenous African Diasporic Reparations Tribunal is in need of a Chief Justice to oversee reparations organizations throughout the African Diaspora. Trinidad is forming it's Tribunal under the auspices of the IADRT. To this end, we will need International Human Rights attorneys, historians, economists, real estate developers, agriculturists and psychologist to assess the postulate damages in each country affected.

Resolution 60/147 is the controlling law on Reparations and allows us the opportunity to effect 9 out of the 10 points set out by the Nation of Islam and the Black Panther Party. The resolution has a plethora of remedies that can be utilized to obtain self-determination, the right of return and indigenous land rights in America and Africa. This resolution can compensate our people for the enslavement, loss wages, loss opportunities, humiliation, and psychological damages that our people have suffered and our suffering as a result of the Trans-Atlantic Genocide and Jim Crow discriminations. You may view Resolution 60/147 here: HYPERLINK "http://www.ohchr" \t "_blank" http://www.ohchr.org/english/law/remedy.htm

However, the passage of the UN Law is not enough as it only the legal road to a process that we as a people must prosecute by way of vehicles such as a Collective Status Plebiscite, Incorporations of the International law into domestic law by "Special Measures", the perfection of our Reparation Tribunal by the addition of Economist, Political Scientist, Historians and others so that we can assess the injuries and postulate remedies.

Self-determination requires a Nation-wide vote, volunteers, and organizational unity amongst our city, state and National Organizations. The African Diasporic Reconciliation Project has a new forum, and is forming men and women's groups to be proactive in our approach to Self Determination and the Nationwide Plebiscite vote. To join the Clan Heads or Clan Mothers, please contact adrproject@gmail.com. You will be given the password to work on nation building and all other issues related to our struggle. We are in the long process of structuring such a National process and encourage all volunteers in each of the 50 states to contact our offices at 904-369-5837 or at HYPERLINK "mailto:info@adrproject.com" \t "_blank" info@adrproject.com

Sponsorship provided by Dr. Mustafa Asaria



Courtesy of Trevor Gardner

Educators and Program Coordinators involved in the **Misión Ribas** *adult education program in Sanare, Venezuela.*

La salud de una República depende
de la moral que por la educación
adquieren los ciudadanos en su infancia
Simón Bolívar

Courtesy of Trevor Gardner

Mural of Simon Bolivar, liberation hero of South America, in the community 23 de enero (23rd of January) in Caracas. The quote reads, "The health of a republic depends on the morality that, through education, its citizens acquire during childhood."

Education for All in Venezeula

Continued from page 7

the intent is present, the will is poignant and the people have convinced me that they will settle for nothing less. If Venezuela continues on the path it has begun with the education Misiones and the Bolivarian Education system, in ten to 20 years, it might just be the most equitably educated nation in the world. From my perspective, within the neglected system of education in the United States, a system that Jonathan Kozol refers to as the "shame of the nation," it is clear that we have critical lessons to learn from Edgar Suarez and from Venezuela.

My original intention in studying the transformation in the Venezuelan education system was to write an informational piece, remaining as objective and apolitical as possible. However, what I now understand is that with voices like Edgar Suarez and many others like him who have shared their experiences with me, objectivity is unjust. What the Bolivarian education model is attempting to accomplish is no less than to liberate, empower and bring equality to the entire population of Venezuela, which has, for 500 years given extreme privilege to a few at the expense of the masses. Of course, it has its flaws and there is much room for improvement — and improvement will be necessary if the Bolivarian Revolution is to continue with strength. But if the process continues to advance and develop it appears to me that, within one generation, Venezuela may just be the most educated country in the world.

*Editor's Note: Within four years under the Chávez Administration, more than 3,000 new schools have been built. By 2002, school attendance at all levels had jumped 25%, representing approximately 1.3 million students who had previously been excluded from the system. The government-sponsored "missions" (*misiónes*) reach underserved regions in Venezuela. They are each named after prominent figures in Venezuelan history, and weave lessons of history and civic responsibility together with reading and mathematical skills.*

Misión Ribas *is named after José Felix Ribas, a philosophical and military leader of Venezuelan Independence;* Misión Robinson *is named after Simón Rodriguez, a private tutor to Venezuelan liberator Simón Bolívar who often traveled under the pseudonym "Samuel Robinson" and* Misión Sucre *is named after independence hero General Antonio José de Sucre.*

BPP 40th Anniversary

Continued from page 18

The growth of multi-racial economic class-based organization capable of compelling living wages and improved benefits, working and living conditions is all that stands in the way of ruling class exploitation. Thus the "hue and cry" atmosphere of racial hysteria being instigated is deliberately calculated to use divisions along racial lines to prevent unified organization along economic class lines. It is noteworthy that this time-*dis*honored practice of using race to destroy unity among labor and the poor against the forces profiting from our exploitation is unfolding simultaneously with government-sponsored slashing of benefits and institutionalization of ultra-low wages through such anti-working class profit-making schemes as welfare slavery, corporate-run health care, prison slave labor, job training (for low-wage or non-existent jobs) and so-called "pull yourself up by your boot straps" (without boots!) enterprise zones.

It is in this climate of a sell-out Establishment press that *The Commemorator* publishes news and analysis from our minority and working class communities while continuing to uphold the contributions of the Black Panther Party. It is through *The Commemorator* that we put out the call today to bring about the changes necessary to install the Ten-Point Program. The production and distribution of *The Commemorator* embodies Huey's theory of revolutionary intercommunalism at the point of practice.

We have taken the lessons from our mistakes and shortcomings and are applying them to advance our practice now.

We do not think that duplication of the Black Panther Party is where the solution lies. But we do think that the tactics that worked, and those that did not work (and why they worked and did not work back then) have to be analyzed. We have to embrace the positives, the things that advanced the struggle for power, and eliminate the negatives, the things that set the struggle back.

The Commemorator is distributed throughout the country, in places such as New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Memphis, Detroit, Portland, Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago, Denver, Cleveland, Sacramento, Santa Cruz and, of course, the Oakland-San Francisco Bay Area. We need more distributors throughout the country. I urge every reader to contact CCBPP today. Arrange to come in for an orientation and to participate in our literacy program, production and distribution of *The Commemorator* or other CCBPP activities. Sign up for our organizer training program, which is available on a full-time or part-time basis. Call us today to learn more about volunteer opportunities with CCBPP at 510-652-7170 and ask for CCBPP Volunteers Coordinator Charles DuBois to schedule a time to come into the office.

The slogan "All Power to the People!" has never been more poignant than it is today.

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**In Honor of
Black Panther Party
40TH ANNIVERSARY**

CCBPP STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party (CCBPP) is committed to the goals of the Black Panther Party (BPP) as outlined in its Ten-Point Program which was written in 1966 by Party founders, Dr. Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale.

The Ten-Point Program outlines goals and objectives toward changing conditions of economic exploitation and political oppression in all low-income and working class communities in the U.S. and elsewhere, as the basis for unity and solidarity.

Also, the CCBPP is committed to the concept of Revolutionary Intercommunalism, introduced by Dr. Newton in 1970 at Boston College. Our Revolutionary Intercommunalism holds that there are basically two sides. On one side there is reactionary intercommunalism which presently holds the world's low-income and working communities under conditions of economic exploitation and political oppression by controlling the wealth, resources and institutions in order to maximize profits for the few. Huey identified this side as the leading reactionary side (the ruling class) which consists of a minority, fewer than five percent of the world population. Under these conditions, reactionary intercommunalism, by and large, keeps the poor and working communities on a cycle of degradation, under conditions of reaction, desperation and poverty, with no end in sight. Newton understood that in order to change these conditions and advance the economic and cultural interests of these oppressed communities of the world, disciplined organizations must be built from the bottom up, enabling these low-income and working communities to fight exploitation and oppression by any means necessary (this fight needs to start in the advanced industrialized U.S. because our nation leads the world in political reaction and economic exploitation). CCBPP advances and upholds the goals which the BPP outlined in its Ten-Point Program, and those goals are about ridding black ghettos and low-income and working communities of economic exploitation and political oppression, understanding that we can reach these goals only by seizing the time at the point of practice.

Black Panther Party Ten-Point Program

WHAT WE WANT, WHAT WE BELIEVE

1. WE WANT FREEDOM, WE WANT POWER TO DETERMINE THE DESTINY OF OUR BLACK AND OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES. We believe that Black and oppressed people will not be free until we are able to determine our destinies in our own communities ourselves, by fully controlling all the institutions that exist in our communities.

2. WE WANT FULL EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR PEOPLE. We believe that the federal government is responsible and obligated to give every person employment or a guaranteed income. We believe that if the American businessmen will not give full employment, then the technology and means of production should be taken from the businessmen and placed in the community so that the people of the community can organize and employ all its people and give a high standard of living.

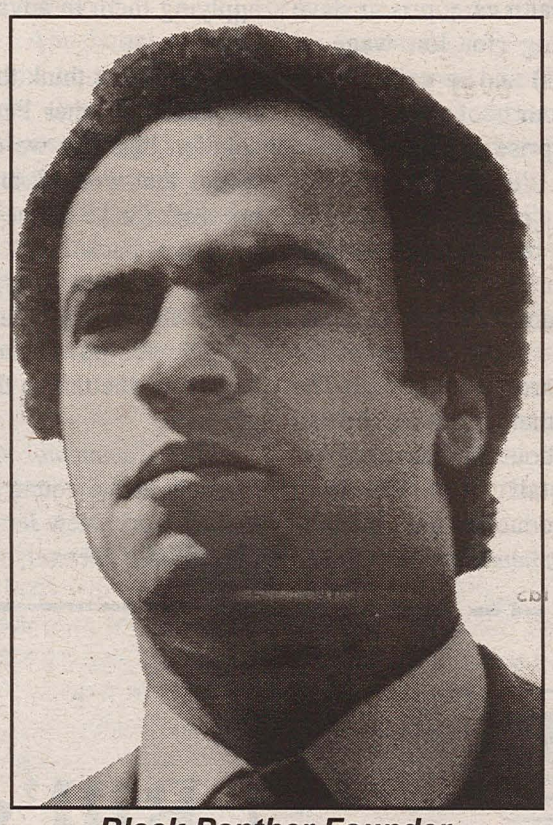
3. WE WANT AN END TO THE ROBBERY BY THE CAPITALIST OF OUR BLACK AND OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES. We believe that the racist government has robbed us and now we are demanding the overdue debt of forty acres and two mules. Forty acres and two mules were promised 100 years ago as restitution for slave labor and mass murder of Black people. We will accept the payment in currency that will be distributed to our many communities. The American racist has taken part in the slaughter of over fifty million Black people. Therefore, we feel this is a modest demand that we make.

4. WE WANT DECENT HOUSING, FIT FOR THE SHELTER OF HUMAN BEINGS. We believe that if the landlords will not give decent housing to our Black and oppressed communities, then housing and the land should be made into cooperatives so that the people in our communities, with government aid, can build and make decent housing for the people.

5. WE WANT EDUCATION FOR OUR PEOPLE THAT EXPOSES THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS DECADENT AMERICAN SOCIETY. WE WANT EDUCATION THAT TEACHES US OUR TRUE HISTORY AND OUR ROLE IN THE PRESENT-DAY SOCIETY. We believe in an educational system that will give to our people a knowledge of self. If you do not have knowledge of yourself and your position in the society and the world, then you will have little chance to know anything else.

6. WE WANT COMPLETELY FREE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL BLACK AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE. We believe that the government must provide, free of charge, for the people, health facilities that will not only treat our illnesses, most of which have come about as a result of our oppression, but will also develop preventive medical programs to guarantee our future survival. We believe that mass health education and research programs must be developed to give all Black and oppressed people access to advanced scientific and medical information, so we may provide ourselves with proper medical attention and care.

7. WE WANT AN IMMEDIATE END TO POLICE BRUTALITY AND MURDER OF BLACK PEOPLE, OTHER PEOPLE OF COLOR, ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLE INSIDE THE UNITED STATES. We believe that the racist and fascist government of the United States uses its domestic enforcement agencies to carry out its program of oppression against Black people, other people of color, and poor people inside the United States. We believe it is our right, therefore, to defend ourselves against such armed forces and that all Black and oppressed people should be armed for self-defense of our homes and communities against these fascist police forces.



Black Panther Founder, Dr. Huey P. Newton

8. WE WANT AN IMMEDIATE END TO ALL WARS OF AGGRESSION. We believe that the various conflicts which exist around the world stem directly from the aggressive desires of the U. S. ruling circle and government to force its domination upon the oppressed people of the world. We believe that if the U. S. government or its lackeys do not cease these aggressive wars that it is the right of the people to defend themselves by any means necessary against their aggressors.

9. WE WANT FREEDOM FOR ALL BLACK AND POOR OPPRESSED PEOPLE NOW HELD IN U. S. FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, CITY, AND MILITARY PRISONS AND JAILS. WE WANT TRIALS BY A JURY OF PEERS FOR ALL PERSONS ARE CHARGED WITH SO-CALLED CRIMES UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS COUNTRY. We believe that the many Black and poor oppressed people now held in U. S. prisons and jails have not received fair and impartial trials under a racist and fascist judicial system and should be free from incarceration. We believe in the ultimate elimination of all wretched, inhuman penal institutions, because the masses of men and women imprisoned inside the United States or by the U. S. military are the victims of oppressive conditions that are the real cause of their imprisonment. We believe that when persons brought to trial that they must be guaranteed, by the United States, juries of their peers, attorneys of their choice and freedom from imprisonment while awaiting trials.

10. WE WANT LAND, BREAD, HOUSING, EDUCATION, CLOTHING, JUSTICE, PEACE AND PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CONTROL OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY. When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But, when a long train of abuses and usurpation, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism. It is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.

This page is sponsored by ACT UP

AIDS in Africa: New Plague or Old Illnesses of Poverty?

Racist HIV Myth Hides Ruthless U.S. Exploitation.

Unlike in the United States, AIDS in Africa is most frequently diagnosed based on four very imprecise clinical symptoms—diarrhea, fever, persistent cough, and weight loss greater than 10% over two months. *HIV antibody tests are not required to diagnose a case of African AIDS.* These four clinical symptoms are identical to the problems created by conditions of poverty that have troubled Africa and other developing areas of the world for centuries. In fact, symptoms of the so-called African AIDS epidemic are indistinguishable from the effects of malnutrition, unsanitary drinking and bathing water, and common curable conditions like malaria, cholera, tuberculosis, and parasitic infections.

Rather than solve the problems of African poverty caused by centuries of ruthless Western exploitation, the U.S. government insists on broadcasting the doomsday notion that Africa is suddenly gripped by a deadly, spreading sexual plague. According to these American health authorities, salvation from sickness can only be found in profitable pills manufactured by the white West and exported to black Africa.

America's Racist HIV Myth

The idea that AIDS originated in Africa is a popular myth without any scientific or epidemiological evidence. News reports that blame AIDS on African green monkeys are based upon elaborate speculation about species-jumping viruses rather than reliable proof. Tall tales about the spread of AIDS are promoted through the most vulgar and racist sexual stereotypes about promiscuous African people.

Still, the numbers speak for themselves. According to the 1999 *WHO Global HIV/AIDS Report,* the total number of AIDS cases in Africa virtually equals the total number of cases in America even though Africa, with its 650 million citizens, has more than two times the population of the United States. Africa is often cited as a worst case example of what could happen in America despite figures demonstrating that 99.5% of Africans do not have AIDS, and among Africans who test HIV positive, 97% do not have AIDS.

While Africa is the frequent target of damaging AIDS media reports, the total number of cases on the continent is relatively small. For example, from 1981 through 1999 cumulative AIDS cases for South Africa, the area claimed hardest hit by HIV, were just 12,825.

Exporting Extermination: AIDS Pills Kill!

It is undeniable that experimental AIDS treatments like protease inhibitors and AZT are all highly toxic, dangerous products. Strokes, muscle wasting, anemia, physical deformities, dementia, birth defects, organ failure, and death are some of the "side effects" of these poisons. Thousands of gay men in the 1980s and 1990s died from AZT poisoning. Now the U.S. State Department has elevated AIDS to the level of a threat to national security in order to gain public support for exporting AZT to pregnant African women. Outspoken leaders like South African President Thabo Mbeki—hard pressed to explain why developing nations stricken with famine and civil chaos should spend what little money they have on toxic anti-HIV drugs while millions starve—are relentlessly attacked as unfit and crazy by racist Western media outlets.

We invite you to investigate the growing international controversy over the cause and treatment of AIDS for yourself. Clip and mail the coupon below for a free copy of the groundbreaking book *What If Everything You Thought You Knew About AIDS Was Wrong?* by AIDS survivor Christine Maggiore.

The Truth About African AIDS:

- **HIV antibody tests are not required for an AIDS diagnosis in Africa.**
- **African AIDS is diagnosed by four very imprecise clinical symptoms:**
  - **Diarrhea**
  - **Fever**
  - **Persistent cough**
  - **Weight loss greater than 10% over two months**
- **Tuberculosis, malaria, and measles far outnumber cases of AIDS in Africa.**
- **AIDS is not the leading cause of illness or death in any African nation.**

Fight the AID$ Fraud!

ACT UP San Francisco is the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power—a militant, direct action organization committed to ending the AIDS fraud. General body meetings are held every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. at 1884 Market Street and our medical marijuana dispensary is open 12:00 to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Get involved: Join ACT UP! End the abuse of AIDS.

Clip and mail the coupon below to receive a free copy of the book *What If Everything You Thought You Knew About AIDS Was Wrong?* or contact us for more information at www.actupsf.com!

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SCHEDULE OF BPP 40th ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY OCTOBER 13

MALONGA CASQUELORD CENTER for the **ARTS**
(Alice Arts)
1428 ALICE STREET in **OAKLAND**

MAIN LOBBY - 12 NOON
REGISTRATION

MAIN THEATER on FRIDAY

1:00 pm: PRESS CONFERENCE WORKSHOP
The Role of the Media in the Struggle
MODERATOR **MELVIN DICKSON**
2:30 pm: FILM: ***Eldridge Cleaver***

4 to 6:00 pm: ***Political Prisoner Panel***
MODERATOR **KIILU NYASHA**
In the **CONFERENCE ROOM:**

1:00 PM : ***Youth Workshop***
3:00 PM : ***Reparations Workshop***
VIDEO SHOWINGS ONGOING
3:00 PM : ***Book Fair*** *in* ***Main Lobby***

Tributes to Fallen Comrades
MAIN THEATER FRIDAY EVENING
OPENING CEREMONIES 7PM

MICHAEL LANE *performing* **MALCOM X**

MICHAEL McCARTY *on* **PANTHER GRIOT**

CHAPTER HISTORIES *of* **SEATTLE**
CHAPTER HISTORIES *of* **PHILADELPHIA**

WORDS *from* **CHAIRMAN BOBBY SEALE**

AFTERWARDS THERE WILL BE A MIXER AT A LOCAL CLUB TO BE ANNOUNCED.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 14

MALONGA CASQUELORD CENTER for the **ARTS**
(Alice Arts)
1428 ALICE STREET in **OAKLAND**

in the **MAIN THEATER** on **SATURDAY**

9:00 AM : ***Opening Remarks and Overview***
9:30 TO 3:00 PM : ***Chapter Histories***
3:30 PM THE INTERNATONAL SECTION:
Kathleen Cleaver & Charlotte O'Neal
4:30 TO 6:00 PM : WRAP UP:
Where Do We Go From Here?

STUDIO 3 WORKSHOPS
9:30 AM : ***Oakland Community School***
10:30 AM : ***Malik Rahim*** *on* ***Hurricane Katrina*** *and* ***Community Preparedness***
11:30 AM : ***Charlotte O'Neal of the UAACC***
UNITED AFRICAN AMERICAN ALLIANCE COMMUNITY CENTER
1:00 PM : ***Emory Douglas***
REVOLUTIONARY ART, SLIDE SHOW
2:00 PM : ***Bobby Seale*** *on* ***Community Organizing***

LANEY COLLEGE
900 FALLON STREET in **OAKLAND**

9:00 AM FILM FORUM
and **YOUTH WORKSHPS**

Some of the film for the Film Festival are: *Comrade Sister* by Party member Phyliss Jackson, *Panthers in Africa* (a film about Pete and Charlotte O'Neal work in Tanzania). Also we will be showing Films in the Works, a few are *History of the Hood, The Black Gangs of LA 1943-1973* and *41th St and Central The untold story of the Southern California Chapter of the BPP* these two films are by Director Gregory "G-Bone" Everett, whose father was a LA Panther.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 14

WORKSHOPS TIME AND ROOM TBA

Impact *of* ***Ethnic Studies*** *on* ***Higher Education***
and the ***Impact*** *of the* ***BPP***
MODERATOR ***Hari Dillon***

Labor *and the* ***BPP Legacy***
Gerald Sanders, Ducho Dennis
and ***Eddie Johnson***

SOLIDARITY
Elbert "Big Man" Howard
and ***Chuck Armsbury***

History *of the* ***BPP***
Charles "Cappy" Pinderhughes

COINTELPRO
Bobby Bowen *and* ***JoNina Abron***

Women *in the* ***BPP - Phyllis Jackson***

The Role of GI's *in the* ***Struggle***
Barbara Cox

Academia *and the* ***BPP – Charles Jones***

Solving Community Problems *and* ***Health Issues – Majeedah Rahman***

Police Brutality *and* ***Legal Rights King Downing***

Saturday Evening Banquet: 7pm
JACK LONDON SQUARE INN

SUNDAY OCTOBER 15

A DAY IN THE PARK
Lil' Bobby Hutton Park
18th & Adeline St. Oakland

11:00 AM : ***Group Photo***
at the ***Alameda County Courthouse***

NOON TO 5:00 PM : ***Bobby Hutton Park***
Food *and* ***Entertainment***

Former BPP Members Weigh In

Continued from page 15

the gentrification has separated people and that *unity* feeling in the neighborhoods is missing.

"As far as the Ten-Point Program goes, it has a lifetime effect in making different decisions regarding what to do, today, in relation to understanding the plight of our people. But it seems like it has been a backward slide in terms of knowledge… I think it meant a lot then. I guess there was more unity …such as patrolling our community and taking on responsibility, for which the Black Panther Party was setting examples — that's what is missing today, and that's why the Ten-Point Program is still needed today."

Sheba Haven *graduated from Castlemont High School, Oakland, CA in 1970. She was active and received a full scholarship from the University of California, but instead of accepting the scholarship, she joined the Black Panther Party. Today, Sister Sheba is active with* It's About Time: Black Panther Party.

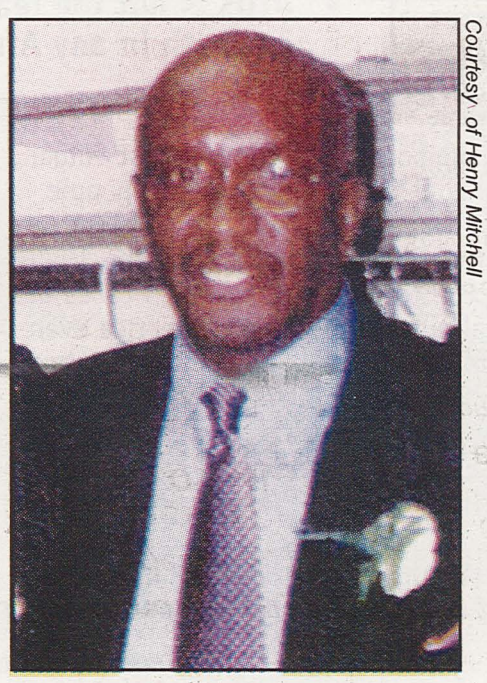
"We can be a good example, that is, this is another opportunity that the current generation can learn from,

Courtesy of ITSABOUTTIMEBPP

Sister Sheba Haven stood security for the 1971 funeral of BPP Field Marshal George Jackson at Oakland's St. Augustine Episcopal church.

and an opportunity to heal the rifts in the community, get busy to solve some of the mounting problems our people face.

"You got all these black historical colleges in the South that don't work together. We still have to work together. People with money and resources need to band together to help less fortunate brothers and sisters, by supporting, participating, and organizing positive programs and networks where there is a need, like the people in the southern Gulf region; people need programs that uplift their plight, especially people who are trapped into a cycle of poverty. And that is why the Ten-Point Program is needed today."



Courtesy of Henry Mitchell

Henry "Mitch" Mitchell

Henry "Mitch" Mitchell *is from Harlem, NYC and is a retired city worker, and the current Chair of a Black History Committee of Local 1320 of the New York City Sewage Treatment & Senior Sewage Treatment Workers DC 37, AFSCME, AFL-CIO*

"This is Henry 'Mitch' Mitchell. It's good to be back in Oakland, to meet and greet all the comrades. I joined the BPP in late 1968 at the Harlem branch. Zayd, Alex Rackley and Beth Mitchell were there. Donald Cox, Barbara Cox, Al Carrol, John Brown, Landon, David and Elaine came through. I was sent to Philly, Baltimore and New Haven. I came out to Oakland from Houston, Texas in 1974. I am glad that I did. The BPP grew the Oakland Community Learning Center, within that was the Oakland Community School. That school will always be a bright spot in the party's history. I worked there, hard work, too, in the maintenance section with Roland Reid as my Section Leader. Phyllis Jackson was our coordinator. Ralph Moore from Tennessee, Donna Howell, Haven Henderson, Ayanna Ade (Gwen Johnson), Steve McCuthen and many other comrades. Flores took me under his wings.

It was an honor to cut the grass at Huey's mother's house. I loved Huey then and still do. Got back to New York in 1979. Retired from my NY City job. I'm now the Chair of a Black History Committee at Local 1320. I also work with the Grassroots Artist Movement, G.A.M.E.

Huey thought that no one has all the answers, nor the last word. We Black people want to be free. The Ten-Point Program and the blood of all our fallen comrades of our beloved BPP lighted the way for me.

All Power To The People.

Mitch